

END COLUMN
Turning
chumps
into
champs

Superpowers to 'bring in the harvest' on arms talks

Summit in the autumn to seal nuclear pact

● The US and Soviet Union will hold an autumn summit to sign a treaty to scrap intermediate-range weapons
● Mr Shultz will fly to Moscow next month to set a firm date and arrange final details for a summit meeting
● Mr Shevardnadze called the outline nuclear agreement a common success for all mankind, for all civilization
● The Government has welcomed the 'long-term' objectives of the restart in full-scale talks on nuclear testing

From Michael Binyon, Washington

President Reagan announced yesterday that he will hold a summit meeting in Washington this autumn with the Soviet leader, Mr Mikhail Gorbachov, to sign an arms reduction treaty covering intermediate-range nuclear forces.

The outline of the treaty was agreed after three days of exhaustive negotiations between Mr George Shultz, the US Secretary of State, and Mr Eduard Shevardnadze, the Soviet Foreign Minister.

Mr Shultz will fly to Moscow next month to work out the final details and set a date and agenda for the Washington summit.

The agreement, the first arms treaty President Reagan will sign in his six years in office, is also the first ever to scrap an entire class of nuclear missiles.

It will remove all Soviet and US missiles with a range of 315 to 1,125 miles from the world, and involves the scrapping of 462 Soviet SS 20s targeted on Europe and 221 targeted on Japan and China. The US will destroy 332 Pershing 2s and ground-launched cruise missiles based in Britain, West Germany, Italy and Belgium, and halt preparations for deployment in The Netherlands.

Mr Shevardnadze called the agreement "a common success for all mankind, for all civilization". He said that it was a beginning, which he hoped would be followed by a continuation in eliminating other classes of weapons.

Despite tough words in Moscow recently, Mr Shevardnadze told a press conference: "Those were difficult negotiations, but not for a moment did we have any doubts about their success."

Over these days we have experienced a complex spectrum of emotions, from anxiety to a strong emotional uplift. This is what we are feeling now, the day before yesterday, I said to Secretary Shultz that it is time for us to bring in the harvest, and he agreed.

President Reagan publicly congratulated both men and their delegations for their "outstanding efforts".

He said that although the two had serious differences in many areas "the tone of the talks was frank, constructive and notable progress was made". He noted that the talks covered not only arms control but also regional conflicts, human rights and bilateral relations.

At the end of the marathon talks on Thursday Mr Shultz and Mr Shevardnadze had a secret 35-minute meeting with President Reagan in the White House to report the agreement, slipping out of the State Department through the basement garage to avoid attention.

In clearing up the final obstacles to agreement, the Russians gave up their insistence that the scrapping of West Germany's Pershing 1A missiles had to be written into the treaty.

Mr Shultz emphasized at the press conference that the US would withdraw the US-controlled warheads as soon as the co-operative agreement with Bonn on the missiles ended.

He said the two sides had also agreed that the warheads would be dismantled.

On the question of the pace of missile destruction, Mr Shevardnadze told reporters that the Soviet Union had accepted the US timetable. This provides for the scrapping of the medium-range missiles and the shorter-range missiles within one year.

But he said that it was not technically possible to destroy them and their warheads within this period, then a five-year and a two-year time frame would apply respectively.

Mr Shevardnadze disclosed that he had invited Mr Caspar Weinberger, the hardline US Defence Secretary, who played little part in the negotiations, to hold talks with his Soviet counterpart concerning possible violations of the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty.

But in his nationally televised press conference he added dryly: "I have to tell you in secret that Secretary Weinberger so far has not responded to that proposal."

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President Reagan at the White House yesterday announcing the US-Soviet agreement on medium-range nuclear missiles.

Plans for water sell-off attacked

By David Walker

The privatization of water is threatening to become a political embarrassment to the Government as the dispute mounts about how and when it is to be done.

Ministers' unease about the timing and success of selling the 10 regional water authorities into private ownership was heightened yesterday after a series of speeches at a water conference in London cast doubt on the Department of Environment's plans.

The outspoken chairman of Thames Water, Mr Roy Watts, said it would be better to abandon privatization altogether than let it go ahead on the basis being proposed by the Government.

The junior environment minister, Lord Belstead, admitted that 1990 would be the earliest date for selling any of the water authorities, even then they would not all be sold off at the same time.

Lord Belstead said, on the Government's behalf, that while it was firmly committed to privatizing water, protecting the environment was as much a priority. Privatization could not proceed until it was satisfied the quality and cleanliness of rivers and tap

water would be maintained.

Continued on page 24, col 6

Pit militants decide on vote for tougher action

By Tim Jones

Militant miners' leaders in Mr Arthur Scargill's Yorkshire heartland last night rounded on the union's national executive for backing away from a full ban on overtime. They decided to hold their own ballot to sanction tougher industrial action.

The decision to ballot the area's 34,000 miners came as Mr Albert Tuke, British Coal's north Yorkshire area director, issued a warning that four or five of 18 pits could close if they went ahead even with the limited overtime ban planned to start at midnight tomorrow.

More than 16,000 miners in the north Yorkshire area were yesterday shown a two-minute video film which pointed out that some pits are so precarious financially that even a one or two percentage drop in the coal they produce could be enough to close them.

The film made it clear that if pits are shut because of action by the men, the corporation could not adhere to its past practice of offering alternative work in other mines.

More seriously for the area, the proposed overtime ban on development work could delay the opening of three pits in the £1.3 billion showpiece Selby complex.

Mr Tuke said: "The long-term effect of an overtime ban

on development work will be suicidal. If development work begins falling behind ultimately you will not have the face capacity.

"We are struggling to survive. We are just getting off our knees following the long strike and now not only are we going back on to our knees, we

are going to go back onto the floor."

But the Yorkshire leaders of the National Union of Mineworkers condemned the decision by their national executive as a "step backwards".

Mr Jack Taylor, president of the Yorkshire NUM, said: "The situation is very serious."

Mr Taylor dismissed Mr Tuke's warnings about pit closures. "Every time we try to do something to defend our members they say our pits are in jeopardy. I think they have cried wolf, whilst they might be in jeopardy there are a lot of people who feel this industry is becoming one of oppression."

The Yorkshire NUM men began their overtime ban last Monday in support of Mr Ted Scott, an activist, who has been told by British Coal that while he can remain in the industry he will not be re-employed at his own pit. Mr Scott was found guilty of gross industrial misconduct.

The overtime ban which begins tomorrow is the "first stage" of a campaign by the NUM to force British Coal to reopen discussions over the disciplinary code.

But the management has said it will not accede to the union's central demand that men accused of industrial misconduct should have their cases heard by an independent arbiter whose decision would be binding.

Continued on page 24, col 6

Minister tells of drug test 'deals'

By John Goodbody
Sports News Correspondent

Mr Colin Moynihan, the Minister for Sport, yesterday said that some British governing bodies had "made deals" to ensure that certain competitors would not be tested for drugs at important events.

His revelation about corruption in the testing system is one of the most serious to be levelled in British sport and comes after a two-month inquiry by the Minister and the athlete Sebastian Coe.

Asked by *The Times* whether he had any concrete evidence of malpractice, Mr Moynihan said: "We took a

considerable amount of evidence in confidence. There is no doubt at all that the answer to that is 'yes'."

He said that included in the evidence was the claim that governing bodies have "decided and made deals to ensure that certain competitors are not tested at events. It is very clear from the evidence that this has happened, and happened regularly."

The Minister said specific incidents had to be confidential, but added that they came from people he respected.

Excuses given included pressure from commercial sponsors anxious to exploit television opportunities.

Asked whether athletics was one of the sports involved, he replied: "There have certainly been widespread rumours."

The minister emphasized that "there is a potential conflict of interest if testing for drugs is not totally independent of the governing body."

At the moment, the selection of competitors required to give urine samples and the supervision of tests is usually carried out by the governing body, although the actual testing is done at the Drug Control Centre at King's College, London.

Mr Moynihan plans to tell the Sports Council at a meeting on Monday that the Drug Advisory Group should be reformed and made responsible for tests.

At international level, the task could be performed by the International Olympic Committee or the World Health Organization.

Mr Nigel Cooper, secretary of the British Amateur Athletic Board, declined to comment on the allegations.

But Sir Arthur Gold, the former president of the European Athletic Association and chairman of the Drug Advisory Group, said: "I have to accept there may have been irregularities, which obviously I did not know about."

Next week



LETTERS from SCHOOL

● John Rae retired with a reputation as a superb headmaster and a boxful of frank letters to parents on bribery (can be useful), school-age drinking (might as well live with it), drugs (a menace), and teachers (could do better).
● On Monday, *The Times* opens the box.

IN PART 2

Store exit

Two executives of Storehouse, Sir Terence Conran's retail group under threat of a takeover bid, have resigned after a management shake-up. Page 25

Maxwell buy

Mr Robert Maxwell has increased his holdings in Guinness Peat Group and Henry Ansbacher, the two City merchant banks. Page 25

Portfolio

● £20,000 can be won in the Times Portfolio Gold competition today: the £16,000 weekly prize - double the usual amount as there was no winner last week - and daily £4,000.
● Portfolio list, page 29; weekly check, page 40.
● Five readers shared yesterday's £12,000 prize, three times the usual amount. Details, page 3.

Exam results

A list of first-class honours degrees awarded by polytechnics will be published on Monday.

INDEX

Home News	2-5
Overseas	6-9
Business	25-30
Sport	42-46
TV & Radio	20-21
Births, marriages, deaths	13
Bridge	21
Chess	21
Court	12
Crosswords	21, 24
Diary	10
Entertainment	14
Family Money	31-40
Features	10, 15-19
Information	22
Law Report	13
Leading articles	11
Legal and financial	41
Letters	11
Obituary	12
Religion	12
Safe Room	12
Schools	13
Science	13
Services	23
TV & Radio	20
Weather	24

Rate fears ease as bank lending drops

By David Smith, Economics Correspondent

Figures showing a sharp slowdown in bank lending added to the mood of optimism on the economy yesterday. The City now thinks base rates will not have to rise further, and lower interest rates are possible later in the year.

Share prices rose sharply on the news. The FT-SE 100 index closed 23.8 points higher at 2,328.3.

But the latest statistics from the building societies show that the £3 billion a month boom in mortgage lending continues and house prices are rising sharply. The average price in Britain is now nearly £40,000, up by 16 per cent on a year ago.

After a run of figures showing that demand and output in the economy is buoyant and unemployment falling sharply, the financial markets nervously awaited yesterday's money supply figures from the Bank of England. In the event,

the figures were much better than expected and quelled fears that the economy is overheating into a period of higher inflation.

The growth of bank lending slowed to £2 billion last month, from £4.9 billion in July. The City was prepared to

Lending slows 25
House prices 27
regard any figure under £3 billion as acceptable, and the even better news sent shares and government stocks sharply higher.

Giltis rose by 1½ points yesterday, for a three-point rise over two days.

The City is now in optimistic mood as it prepares for next month's BP share sale. The pound rose by nearly a cent to \$1.6565 and the sterling index rose by 0.1 of a point to 73.3.

Some activists at Harrogate said afterwards that it made it more likely that a challenger

to Mr Steel would be put up against Mr Steel in any leadership contest. Others felt that he had skillfully woven a speech to please both parts of the new party.

Mr Steel acknowledged that defence policy was the most likely sticking point in the merger negotiations.

He went some way towards satisfying SDP Leader Mr

Steel stakes his new claim

By Robin Oakley, Political Editor

Mr David Steel, the Liberal leader, declared yesterday that the party he wants to form must stand for a new combination of competition and consumerism.

He implicitly staked his claim to lead the merged party by setting out a vision of what the Liberals and SDP might create.

Senior colleagues were convinced that he would be a candidate when the time came, crowning his personal crusade over the years for a realignment of the Left in British politics.

Mr Steel disappointed many Liberals yesterday at what was probably their last party assembly by producing a calculated and practical speech when they were looking for a more emotional response.

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Assembly reports 4
Merger imprint 10
Sketch 24

Robert MacLennan's demands for a clear stance by saying: "A nuclear element in Nato defence for as long as it is needed to deter a perceived Soviet threat - that we must guarantee."

To placate his own party, Mr Steel insisted that that did not mean pursuing a Gaullist line of absolute commitment for all time to the retention of

Declaration of intent

an independent nuclear deterrent.

He went on: "We cannot and will not tolerate any attempt by this Conservative Government to make its commitment to an independent strategic deterrent a barrier against further reductions in the level of armaments on both sides."

Calling for the merged grouping to be the "party of the future" with bolder themes and a sharper identity than the Alliance had at the election, Mr Steel dismissed Labour as an unelectable party looking back to the Thirties.

He said: "We are the natural alternative to Thatcherism, the only force which can replace it."

The Alliance could work with Labour if it could abandon class and collectivism, if it could cut free from union control and if it could eliminate its

Continued on page 24, col 6

Doctors to be tested on their bedside manners

By Kerry Gill and Robin Young

Medical students at Glasgow University are to be examined in bedside manners, while nurses at Barnsley General Hospital are to be taught how to smile.

In Glasgow, breaches of medical etiquette or conduct unbecoming to a doctor will naturally cost students their chance of a degree; but then so might unsympathetic attitudes, unclear speech or even an excess of bonhomie. The Barnsley nurses, however, will be taught that a gleaming smile is a topic to brighten patients' days. No sanctions will be taken against staff nurses who fail to raise more than a sickly grin.

The Glasgow course is headed by Professor Hamish Barber, the university's professor of general practice, and will become part of students' professional examination in 1988-89.

In their second year of study the Glasgow students will be given tuition in interviewing patients. Their efforts will be recorded on tape as they practise their bedside techniques with actors and each other before being let loose on real patients.

In their third year, they will have to practise comforting the elderly and terminally ill, while fourth year training will involve work with those who are psychologically sick. The fifth year curriculum will include coping with women who have undergone mastectomies, lost newborn babies or had pregnancies terminated.

Professor Barber said: "Until now it

has been assumed that doctors would naturally be good communicators, and did not have to learn the skill. This is a course which makes the behaviour of doctors with patients as important as clinical medicine. The 200 students already on the course are taking to it very well."

Dr James Whitelaw, chairman of the BMA's Scottish Hospital Medical Services, said he welcomed the course. "Medicine is still largely an art as much as a science. We are all too aware that we are often not good at talking to patients in terms they can understand," he said.

He added that many doctors would still not have enough time to speak to most of their patients in crowded surgeries and busy hospital clinics.

There, smiles might still have to suffice.

The Barnsley nurses will learn how to smile in the face of all sorts of adversity. Mr Tony Mapplebeck, the district general manager, said patients were already assured of good clinical care but much more could be done to make their environment comfortable and pleasant.

"It is important that patients are received in a personal and attentive way not only by doctors and nurses but by all the staff who come into contact with them," he said. The training programmes including special smiling lessons would, he said, make patients feel more relaxed and at home, and might improve nurses' spirits too.

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Alcohol abuse and TV violence to be tackled by Hurd

By Craig Seton

Measures to counter alcohol misuse and violence on television were announced yesterday by Mr Douglas Hurd, Home Secretary.

A special ministerial group has been established to plan the Government's attack on the abuse of alcohol.

The inter-departmental team, under the chairmanship of Mr John Wakeham, the leader of the House, will investigate new ideas for tackling alcohol abuse and examine the link between crime and alcohol.

Talks are likely with the drinks industry about alcohol advertising and labelling of alcoholic drinks, although Mr Hurd ruled out the possibility of cigarette-style health warnings on bottles.

Mr Hurd, at a seminar in Coventry, said government action had to be co-ordinated across a range of policies, including health education, crime prevention and road safety.

"I am confirmed in my belief of the link between alcohol and crime and, even more perhaps, between alcohol and the kind of casual public disorder which disfigures certain parts of our cities," he said.

He said that figures from a survey in Coventry showed that alcohol was linked to 75 per cent of those arrested for disorder.

"We want to educate people into drinking sensibly but we are talking about safer drinking, we are not talking about

being spoilsports or a puritan approach. But there is no doubt of the harm which can be caused by unsafe, excessive drinking."

Referring to the proposed extension of licensing hours, the Home Secretary said: "The Scottish experience has shown that you can relax the hours without making the problems of alcohol misuse worse."

Mr Hurd also said yesterday that violence on television could influence the actions of some viewers.

Speaking at the Royal Television Society Convention in Cambridge, he said the Government would set up a new body "more distant from the business of programme-making with a wider concern to reflect interest in the development and maintenance of standards on sex and violence — of which, in my view, violence is the more important".

Broadcasters had to be alert to a possible "insidious effect" of too heavy a general level of violence on television giving a false idea of its prevalence in society. It could make it more difficult for some viewers to reject the idea of using violence to achieve aims.

Most people, including most of the young, who saw programmes showing violence as entertainment could keep what they saw separate from their own lives.

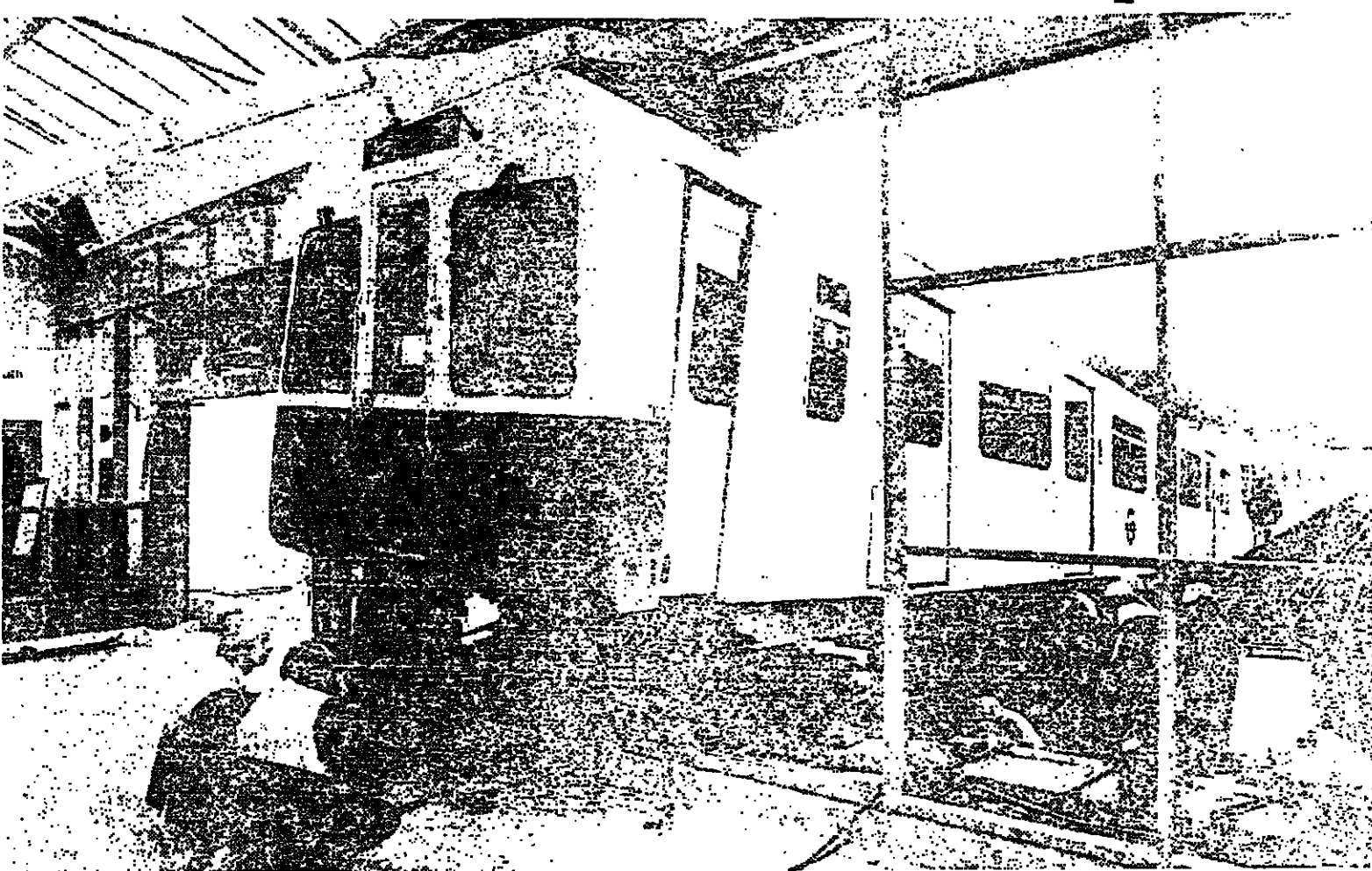
"I am persuaded that there are a minority of viewers for whom such a frontier does not exist. What they view, what they think and what they do, form a confused and massive force at the centre of their lives."

"Nor would I seek to place an over-lavish share of the ills of society at your door."

"But clearly the industry and those responsible for its regulation — including myself — must recognize that the power of the medium of television carries with it special responsibilities."

Because of that, the Government was committed to bringing forward proposals for stronger and more effective arrangements to ensure independent oversight of programme standards in respect of violence and public taste.

23 hurt as rush-hour Tube crashes on platform



A London Underground train halted on the platform yesterday after crashing through buffers at Richmond Station, south London, yesterday morning.

Twenty-three people were injured when the train's front carriage rode up over the platform concourse.

Preliminary tests excluded driver

error or brake failure and investigators believe the rails may have been faulty.

About a hundred passengers were on the rush-hour train when it crashed at the station, which is run by British Rail's Southern Region. It stopped seven feet short of a ticket collector, who was treated for shock.

Seventeen people were taken to hospital. Only one, a woman in her twenties who suffered a broken leg, was seriously hurt.

Mr Maurice Breen, one of a line of ticket collectors at the station, saw the train crashing towards him. He told colleagues: "The train just seemed to jump off the track at me. A few more

inches and I would have been killed."

Mr Paul Derby, a passenger on the District Line said: "The brakes seemed to go on but they didn't seem strong enough. Everyone was flung off over the place by the impact."

Train services are expected to return to normal today.

(Photograph: John Rogers)

New firms could take airtime after midnight

By Richard Evans, Media Editor

Night hours television with new kinds of programmes run by competitors to independent television companies is being considered by the Government, Mr Hurd told the convention yesterday.

Several ITV companies have recently started televising programmes between midnight and 6am and the new service has been increasingly popular, especially in the London area.

The Home Secretary referred to the increasing number of independent television firms "cramming out" during night hours and added: "I remain to be convinced that there is any corollary to squatters' rights on the airwaves."

Mr Hurd said: "The idea of using the night hours to bring into being new kinds of programme service, and perhaps new programme providers, is one of many attractions and we shall be considering it seriously."

The Home Secretary's remarks were criticized by Mr John Whitney, director general of the Independent Broadcasting Authority.

He said he was disturbed that Mr Hurd referred to the squatters' rights of indepen-

dent television companies because it wrongly gave the impression that they should not broadcast during night hours.

Mr Whitney said the IBA would be considering how the new night-time television experiment worked before recommending whether it should remain with ITV companies or be opened up.

Mr Hurd implicitly rejected a proposal in the Peacock Committee report that night hours television should be freed from programme regulation which would allow the broadcasting of pornography.

"If regulation is justified, even when adults are expected to be the main audience, then it is justified at night too."

Although Mr Hurd carefully avoided saying what would be included in the Government's expected White Paper on broadcasting, he reaffirmed his interest in the potential of subscription television, partly as a new source of finance and "partly as a way of bringing those operating the system into a direct relationship with the consumer."

He also spoke in the strongest terms yet in favour of awarding independent television contracts by tender.

Ferry inquest

Survivor tells of futile search

A survivor yesterday recalled how he ran up and down the hull of the capsized ferry, the Herald of Free Enterprise, calling for his family, although "I realized it was just a waste of time".

Mr George Lamy, aged 54, a postal worker, of Lefevre Walk, Bow, east London, heard at the inquest on 18 victims that his mother, Victoria, aged 76, his wife, Frances, aged 42, his daughter, Kim, aged 20, and her son, Steven, aged 11 months, died from drowning and hypothermia.

Mr Lamy, his voice shaking with emotion, twisted a handkerchief in his hands as he described the night of the disaster off Zeebrugge.

Mr Lamy was sitting alone near the ferry's video room while the rest of his family went to buy refreshments and change the baby.

He braced himself against a wall as the ferry capsized and was the first to escape from the vessel when a young man helped him to smash a window.

For some time, Mr Lamy helped the crew pull passengers from the wreck. "Rescuers thought I was one of the crew, they had given me a crewman's jacket," he said.

"I wanted to stay because I realized my family was still there. I realized my family was at the other end of the boat so I went along breaking windows and calling out. I realized it was just a waste of time."

The jury also heard evidence from Mr Nicholas Ray, a member of the crew, who related how he had escaped but had seen two of his shipmates, Graham Evans and Ernest Rodgers, die. The three escaped through a watertight door as it was closing and

tried to grab hold of a handrail.

"At this stage Mr Rodgers fell and slid away into the engine room workshop," Mr Ray said.

Mr Rodgers, aged 52, of Rope Walk, Aycliffe, Dover, died from multiple injuries and drowning.

Mr Ray and Mr Evans managed to get to the car deck but realized there was no escape, Mr Ray said. They made their way back towards the stairs trying to avoid falling lorries but Mr Evans fell and feared he had broken some ribs.

"There was a large metallic crash," Mr Ray said. "There was no call, no cry or anything. I can only assume that Mr Evans had ventured to the end of the stairway and fallen off the end into the engine room workshop."

The hearing continues on Monday.

Aircraft in battle for Far East

By Harvey Elliott
Air Correspondent

A boom in air travel in the Far East has triggered a sales battle between European and American plane makers.

The prize for the winner could be hundreds of millions of pounds' worth of sales throughout the region, including mainland China.

In the past year traffic has gone up by around 12 per cent, with some routes, such as that between Hong Kong and Japan, recording increases of over 30 per cent.

The Hong Kong-based airline, Cathay Pacific, could set the pace when it chooses between the Boeing 767 twin engine jet and the Airbus A300-600.

At least 10 of the aircraft are needed, at a cost of up to £500 million, to carry the increased number of passengers now flying to the Far East.

Salesmen from both groups are trying to convince Cathay that their aircraft is best. Once the planes begin appearing in Chinese cities such as Peking and Shanghai, they could pave the way for big orders from the rapidly expanding Chinese national airline.

Britain stands to gain whichever sales team wins the battle for orders. Rolls Royce, which is the preferred engine supplier to Cathay, provides the engines for the Boeing 767 and was recently chosen by British Airways in a similar deal for its new fleet.

At the same time British Aerospace makes the wings for the Airbus and has a 20 per cent stake in the project.

The battle is expected to be bitter. China has already taken a 12.5 per cent stake in the company and is certain to watch the final choice closely before deciding which aircraft to use to expand its own fleet.

Survey of pupils

Bullying affects one in four

By John Clare, Education Correspondent

Nearly one primary school child in four is involved in bullying, either as victim or aggressor, according to a study by two educational psychologists.

They say that bullying is a common occurrence, more complex than folklore suggests, and causes considerable distress and suffering.

The study, by Mr Pete Stephenson and Mr Dave Smith, was based on information from more than 1,000 children in their final year at 26 primary schools in Cleveland.

It found that 10 per cent of the sample were bullying other children and had been doing so for a year or more. Similarly, 7 per cent had bullied for at least 12 months. It suggests, the authors say, that bullying is not a problem that "sorts itself out". Another 6 per cent were both bullies and victims and were the least popular with other children.

Bullies tended to be more confident and active than other children, as well as physically stronger, and their popularity was rated as average. Only a minority, described as anxious bullies, conformed to the stereotype of being cowards.

Most victims were found to be rather weak, ineffective and unpopular with other children. About one in five never told teachers of their plight. A smaller group, described as provocative victims, actively provoked bullying and complained of it frequently.

More than 90 per cent of teachers who admitted that bullying was a problem in their class described it as being of only a "minor" nature.

The report says that bullying occurs much more frequently in some schools. "The larger the class and the larger the school, the greater tends to be the problem. It was also more common in schools

located in socially deprived areas."

● The United States' way of tackling the problems of inner-city schooling could provide a model for Britain, Mr Kenneth Baker, Secretary of State for Education and Science, said yesterday.

He leaves tomorrow for a tour of the US which will include visits to schools in inner-city areas of New York, Washington, Chicago and Dallas. Many are "magnet" schools which specialize in mathematics, science and technology and cater largely for black and Hispanic pupils.

Their success has already inspired the Government's proposal to set up a network of city technology colleges.

Mr Baker said that he was particularly interested to learn how Americans coped with the boredom that seemed to afflict 14 and 15-year-olds and which could lead to truancy and drug taking.

Portfolio Gold

Five winners shared yesterday's Portfolio Gold prize, which after three days without a claim amounted to £12,000.

Mr Gary Nutting, of Sandhurst Road, Leicester, plans to put his £2,400 towards a new car.

Mr Ronald McInnes, a retired dental surgeon, of Forest Road, Loughborough, Leicestershire, said he had not decided how to spend his prize.

Nor has Mr William Rees, a management consultant from Blackmoor, Clevedon, Avon.

Mrs Joan Thirle, of Hillside Avenue, Norwich, said: "My husband has just retired so we will have another holiday this year."

The fifth winner was Mrs Wendy Smith, of Semphill Road, Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire.

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MP's role in sex abuse cases 'diabolical'

An MP's intervention in the Cleveland child sex abuse controversy had an absolutely diabolical effect on parents and social workers, a county official told a judicial inquiry yesterday.

Mr Bill Walton, Cleveland social services assistant director, answered the repeated criticism by Mr Stuart Bell, Labour MP for Middlesbrough, of his department.

Mr Bell has championed the cause of parents fighting for the return of their children taken into care after disputed abuse diagnoses by Dr Mariette Higgs and Dr Geoffrey Wyatt, Middlesbrough General Hospital paediatricians.

The MP said in the Commons that Mrs Sue Richardson, the department's child abuse consultant, had "concluded and conspired" with Dr Higgs to keep the police out of abuse cases.

Asked what effect the criticisms had on parents caught up in the crisis and their response to the social services, Mr Walton said: "This alienated the parents from the department which I think was absolutely diabolical."

"It certainly had a demoralizing effect on staff, from social workers right up to ourselves."

The inquiry continues on Monday.

Anderton in clear over backing for castration

By Ian Smith

No disciplinary action will be taken by the Greater Manchester police authority against its Chief Constable, Mr James Anderton, for his remarks backing castration of repeated sexual offenders.

After Mr Anderton had spoken earlier this year of AIDS sufferers being in a "cesspit of humanity", he gave an undertaking to the authority to ask for permission before making any similar public comments.

Mr Steven Murphy, the chairman, yesterday told the authority that Mr Anderton had discussed the subject with him before giving interviews.

Mr Murphy said the issue of castration had been raised at a question and answer session after a seminar on rape.

Mr Anderton had agreed with a questioner's suggestion that castration might be advocated and had subsequently been asked for interviews.

Instead of criticizing Mr Anderton, Mr Murphy said it was the media that was at fault for seizing on a delicate and sensitive medical issue in order to embarrass the Chief Constable.

An attempt by Mr Anthony McCordell to have Mr Anderton reprimanded was not even voted on.

Murder on the Poppy Line Express

By Mark Ellis

An elegant titled lady will board the Poppy Express in Norfolk tonight after a blazing row with her husband on the platform, much to the embarrassment of other passengers. Soon afterwards she will be dead.

Lady Heather Morgan-Smythe will have fallen victim to a person or persons unknown and clues to solve the mystery will be scattered along the line and in the five carriages full of passengers.

The police will ask the passengers for help in establishing the motive and tracking down the killer after stopping the North Norfolk Railway steam train, nicknamed after the poppies which grow wild beside the tracks.

To turn detective in the best tradition of Hercule Poirot, the 200 passengers have paid £7.50 each to be participants and observers of the murder story, set in the 1920s. Amateur actors will take the roles of Lady Heather, Lord David, her husband, their butler and

entourage travelling to Weybourne for a weekend ball to mark his lordship's return from safari.

From the moment the train with two Pullman carriages pulls out of Sheringham station, about 20 miles from Norwich, all eyes will be on potential suspects. The actors know only their own parts and the one person who knows the full story is Mr David Williams, the railway's catering superintendent, who devised the idea of a murder excursion. He said: "It will certainly be a

journey with a difference and it is quite an ingenious murder."

The evening, a sell-out, is expected to raise about £1,000 towards the cost of extending the eight-mile line from Weybourne to Holt.

More than 80 people volunteered to play the murder victim. The reward for the most successful private detective at the end of the night is a trip on, of course, the Venice-Simpson Orient Express from London to Leeds Castle in Kent, a journey which is likely to prove less sinister.

Nuclear capability 'for future bargaining'

There must be a nuclear defence for Nato as long as it was needed to deter any threat. Mr David Steel, Leader of the Liberal Party, told the final session of the Harrogate assembly.

But, having referred to the latest breakthrough by the super powers on arms reduction, he told delegates, to loud applause, that Britain's independent nuclear capability had to be used positively and "put on the table" to promote the next, more comprehensive, stage of disarmament.

Mr Steel began by saying they had come to the Assembly fearing a loss for Liberalism; they left confident of a gain for Liberalism and Social Democracy. "To capture the goodwill towards us that undoubtedly exists throughout the length and breadth of the country, and turn it into votes, needs a clearer strategy, bolder themes and a sharper identity."

They were the natural alternative to Thatcherism, the only force which could replace it. Nobody could truthfully say the same of the Labour Party. Who could imagine Labour coming up with new ideas?

Nor was there any alternative from within the Conservative ranks. After Mrs Thatcher had gone, the Tory party would be convalescent for a very long time. "Learning to walk again, after so many years on your knees, is going to take the Conservatives quite a while."

Nobody could claim the Thatcher years had been marked by good economic stewardship. Under this Government, research and development had been starved, while the perspectives of the City had been foreseen to weekly, daily and even hourly fluctuations in prices.

Having detailed some of his views of the economic and financial failings of the Government, Mr Steel said: "The national balance-sheet, I believe, shows an equally grave deficit in social terms."

Although there had been a healthy swing away from collectivism, too many people had found the door of opportunity slammed shut in their faces. In essence, Tory individualism had turned out to be personal selfishness.

Liberal individualism meant opening doors of opportunity and success to everyone. It was the unique task of liberalism and social democracy to draw the connection between the individual and the community.

He said that Liberals' concern for the individual was universal: not only in the social but in the economic sphere. Choice for the

consumer and opportunity for the individual were the mainstays of a healthy economy. "We need more competition and fewer cosy cartels."

"We must not tolerate the sort of privatization which merely replaces a public monopoly by a private monopoly. (Applause) British Telecom should be a warning. The City got the payoff, not the telephone user."

"We will oppose the creation of a monopolistic private airline or a private electricity monopoly. We will not tolerate mega-mergers which are against the public interest. That calls for much stronger monopoly and merger rules in a strengthened Office of Fair Trading."

In the public sector, they would not tolerate the complacent lack of internal competition.

The British put up with an electoral system which gave a different value of votes, depending on where they were cast and for which party. The result on June 11, with its disgraceful misrepresentation of the wishes of the electorate, was another in a long series of denials of basic democratic rights which the British put up with.

"We put up with the encroachment of state power on the life of the private citizen. The *Spycatcher* episode would be laughable if it were not so serious. It has cost £1 million of public money to make Peter Wright as wealthy an author as Jeffrey Archer. (Applause)"

"But behind the charade is the shadow of something more ominous: unaccountable intelligence services. British judges who are over-respectful of the executive and too little respectful of the freedom of expression; concealment and cover-up of murky misdeeds by those who are supposed to be our servants. Our fragile liberties are too often unprotected. We demand a Bill of Rights." (Applause)

They needed a constitutional revolution, to open up democracy in Britain, with self-government for Scotland and Wales.

6 We need much stronger monopoly and merger rules

They should stop Parliament being the creature of the executive and protect the civil rights and liberties of every citizen. Information should be allowed to circulate freely and local government should begin to fight back against the dictates of the centre.

The poll-tax saga demonstrated everything wrong with British government and was being pushed by the Prime Minister against the wishes of most of the Cabinet. On her orders it had been imposed in Scotland without consultation.



Mr David Steel, with his wife Judy, receiving an ovation after his closing speech at the Liberal Party's assembly yesterday.

Local income tax, the Alliance preference, had been dismissed out of hand. Poll tax would be regressive: the rich man in his castle would pay the same as the poor man at his gate. It was being introduced by the Prime Minister because she did not trust local government.

She could reform local government by proportional representation to make it more representative and responsive but instead she was doing all in her power to weaken vigorous local democracy. It was a tax which would take a veritable army of snoopers to enforce.

On these economic and constitutional issues, "Liberals and the SDP go into the new party totally at one."

Some common deliberation was required on defence and disarmament. "Let me try and help that process."

They must never forget that Nato had a political as well as a military purpose: collective security so long as it was necessary, but common security — the removal of the sense of threat on both sides — as the long-term political aim.

Now, at last, today, there was a chance to move: to reduce nuclear weapons and missiles on both sides, to lessen the sense of threat, to move some more steps away from armed hostility to real détente. It was an exciting, but in some ways an unsettling prospect.

Some were bound to prefer the old certainties of cold war confrontation to the new uncharted territory of arms reduction and political dialogue, but if the conservative German Chancellor Helmut Kohl could be brought to the view that reducing the level of weapons was more important than the military pessimism which clung to every weapons system, he had hope that conservatives in other allied countries would come round.

"We must not allow the pessimists and the ideological hardliners to destroy the opportunity which we now face. The East-West relationship is dynamic, not static. We should put all our weight behind the pressures for change in the right direction."

An INF (intermediate-range nuclear forces) agreement was a great prize, but must not be the end of a process, a moment for self-congratulation and resumed inactivity. It must be made the beginning of a larger process of global arms control and strategic reduction. They must press on to diminish tension and develop confidence in the overarching idea of common security which potentially linked the real interests of people in East and West.

"A nuclear element in Nato defence for as long as it is needed to deter a perceived Soviet threat — that we must guarantee. Equally, we accept that we must continue to make our contribution to Nato's nuclear strategy, for so long as it is needed. What we cannot and will not accept is the Gaullist doctrine that in all circumstances any self-respecting nation needs its own nuclear weapons — and that such a commitment is absolute, regardless." (Applause)

"On the contrary, we must be ready to use positively the leverage of Britain's indepen-

dent nuclear capability, by putting it on the table to promote the next and more comprehensive stage of the disarmament process."

"The British Liberal Party has always made this careful distinction as did the Liberal/SDP Alliance at the last election. We

6 Months of party turbulence a price worth paying

should continue to support a British contribution to Nato defence but we cannot and will not tolerate any attempt by this Government to make its commitment to an independent strategic deterrent a barrier against further reductions in the level of armaments on both sides.

One imperative was to transfer some of the resources of the developed world away from the arms race and into the task of assisting world development.

Civilized values were held instinctively and valued stron-

gly by millions of British people. "The middle ground is there: the middle ground is a heartland already settled by our seven million homecastles. That is the sturdy landscape is the centre of our nation. It will be re-filled and re-grown. It will welcome back with generosity those prodigals who left to seek the fool's gold which the lady offered."

The country offered the good life to some, but Liberal individualism was about the prospect of a fuller life for all.

"My message today is that this fuller life must be founded on wider opportunities and more choice; competition and consumer satisfaction; better education for our young people; breaking down class barriers and restrictive practices whenever they stifle people's chances of making a reality of our democracy."

It was the hope of that fuller life for all which put an obligation on them to work together over the next few months so carefully and with such judgement and dedication that they were able next year to launch a new and yet stronger vessel to carry forward the values of Liberalism and Social Democracy. "Comradeship will be as invaluable as willpower."

Mr Steel said that he had been pressed to make clear his personal position on the leadership of the new party. "But this is not the time for us to decide that. I am in no doubt about my task over the next few months. To complete the formation of the new party is itself a profound responsibility. When the spring comes it will be for those of us in Parliament to discuss the leadership frankly and openly and for the membership to make its choice."

"When I do assure you is that my commitment to future active participation in the new party is total. (Applause)"

"I have always been driven by the conviction that we will be able in our time to practise in power the values which we have evolved and evidenced in the long years of opposition. (Applause)"

"This has been — almost certainly — our last annual Liberal Assembly. It has been — almost certainly — also the first assembly of the movement that will take Liberalism into power. These months of turbulence will have been a price well worth paying if we are able to offer at the next election a government of vision and capability."

He concluded: "The tree of Liberalism has its roots secure and it will bear fruit."

Mr Steel was given a standing ovation. Then, to the tune of "Marching through Georgia" played on a piano behind the platform, the whole assembly clapped and sang "God save the land for the people."

'Keep water public' call

Delegates carried a motion urging outright opposition to privatization of the electricity and water industries.

Mr Simon Hughes, MP for Southwark and Bermondsey, and Mr Richard Wainwright, former MP for Colne Valley, both opposed the reference to electricity.

Mr Hughes said that outright opposition to electricity might not allow Liberals to have a democratic approach to government proposals. Mr Wainwright felt that Liberals should be the last people to yield to Conservatives a monopoly of getting improved industries out of the hands of the centralized state.

On a separate vote, delegates kept the outright opposition to electricity privatization in the motion.

Mrs Chris Willmore, Association of Liberal Councillors, moving the motion, said there should be no knee-jerk reaction to privatization. "We must judge every privatization proposal on its merits."

Mrs Doreen Darby, Rushlip, Northwood, declared that the Prime Minister was taking away what belonged to the people and "hogging it at a knock-down price" to her friends. It is a national theft on a grand scale.

Housing cash cut attacked

Liberal councillors in Tower Hamlets, accused of a mean over policy on the homeless in the east London borough with a large immigrant community, were defended in an emergency debate on homelessness.

Mr Andrew Stannell, an officer of the Association of Liberal Councillors, said the housing budget of Tower Hamlets, £5 million under Labour, was now £18 million.

Mr Matthew Bishop, Carshalton and Wallington, made a successful emergency motion demanding the Government cut on what councils could spend on housing and expressing concern at a High Court ruling that local authorities had no obligation to provide housing for "immigrant" families recently reunited under the Immigration Act.

It called on the Government to ensure such families were entitled to housing and for 100 per cent government funding to implement homelessness legislation.

Meadowcroft opening shots

The difficulties facing the Alliance parties in negotiating a merger were underlined last night when Mr Michael Meadowcroft, became president-elect of the Liberal Party.

The radical former MP for Leeds West said he would oppose any move to get the parties to agree a policy stance as part of final terms to go before their members. Mr Robert MacLennan, SDP leader, wants such a statement. Mr Desmond Wilson, president for the past year, handed over to Mr Adrian Slade.

Labour deal ruled out

The new party resulting from the merger of the Liberal Party and the SDP would not be in the market of doing an electoral deal with Labour, Mr Tim Clement-Jones, Chairman of the Liberal Party, said. Some had suggested that that would be the party's inclination, but it would instead have the self-confidence to go for power on its own account.

Bottom line

The assembly ended with an appeal by Mr Cyril Smith, MP for Rushmore, for donations to party funds. It brought in about £25,000.

When Mr David Steel spoke yesterday to what may be the last annual Liberal assembly it was a special occasion for him as well as for the party.

Ever since he became leader 11 years ago he has struggled to bring about a realignment of the left. He has never regarded the Liberal Party as a sufficient instrument by itself for achieving power.

Step by step he has taken his party a long way. That it would have voted on Thursday for the principle of merging its separate identity in a new party could hardly have been envisaged when he addressed his first conference as leader at Llandudno in 1976. On that occasion he was heckled by some of his audience for even raising the possibility of coalition.

It has been a remarkable achievement. But securing the agreement of even an overwhelming majority of the Liberal conference for creating a new party is not enough. It has to be the right kind of party to impress the public.

That means that the Liberals have to be persuaded to accept terms that will win the confidence of a large majority of Social Democrats, and that a purpose and vision need to be proclaimed for the new party



Geoffrey Smith

going beyond prudent organization for the pursuit of power.

The challenge for Mr Steel yesterday was, therefore, to set this development in broad historical sweep, to send the right signals of policy realism to his followers, but also to remind Liberals that having willed the ends they have still to will the means.

Judged in this context, I thought his speech was disappointing. The routine switch of the Government and Labour were irrelevant to these purposes and detracted from what should have been

the special nature of this speech.

Mr Steel was wise to play down the possibilities of a deal with Labour, but he might have done so still more emphatically. He gave the impression of regarding this as an idea for which the right conditions were most unlikely to exist. But the objections are surely stronger than that.

An electoral pact with Labour is, indeed, almost certainly unattainable. But it would be positively undesirable for those many Alliance candidates in potentially winnable seats who depend upon attracting the votes of disoriented Conservatives. Such people might be persuaded to desert the Tories, but not so as to put Labour in.

The critical point that has overshadowed this conference, however, is that the Social Democrats will not vote for a merger unless there is first an agreed statement on policy stance.

Mr MacLennan outlined his requirement in his first speech as SDP leader in Portsmouth. He confirmed the need to this conference on Wednesday, even though most Liberals do not like the idea. But Mr Steel avoided the issue yesterday.

On the substance of policy,

his remarks on competition and consumerism should have been reassuring to Social Democrats, so far as they went. He seemed to say most of the right things, without quite managing to give the impression that these were questions on which he had thought deeply and felt strongly.

But it was what he had to say on nuclear defence to which Social Democrats are likely to pay the closest attention. He was unequivocally opposed, as he has always been, to unilateralism.

Yet the artful phrasing of his comments on Britain's independent deterrent contrasted with Mr MacLennan's direct commitment on Wednesday to "retaining a nuclear capability for the foreseeable future". Mr Steel appears to regard the British deterrent essentially as a bargaining counter for disarmament.

These differences may be more a reflection of Mr Steel's style of leadership than of what he will deliver in the end. But if enough Social Democrats are to be attracted to a new party, the Liberals will have to offer more reassurance than they may have realized from their leader's speech yesterday.

POLL TAX

'Robin Hood in reverse'

The Government claimed a poll tax would increase financial accountability because people would see a direct link between tax paid and service provided. But those with greatest need of local service would be least able to pay. Mrs Claire Tyler, Harrogate, said during a community charge debate.

The assembly passed without dissent an amended motion deploring the introduction of the charge in Scotland. It reaffirmed Liberal policy to introduce local income tax at locally determined rates. The amendment added the pledge that land value taxation, except on agricultural land, should be introduced simultaneously.

The motion was proposed by Mr Iain Brodie-Brown, Congleton, who said that under government proposals, YTS trainees would pay the same as millionaires: it was a Robin Hood tax in reverse.

Mr David Ridgway, Colne Valley, said present rates there represented a week's pension; poll tax would cost pensioners six weeks' money.

BUSINESS

Working party on City dealing

The Liberal Party is to set up a two-year working party, on the City to produce policy proposals concerning the problems of short-term speculative gain and of mergers. Delegates voted unanimously to set up the working party after hearing from Mr Andrew Phillips, from Braintree, who chaired three meetings of an assembly commission on the subject earlier this week.

He moved a motion criticizing "short-term speculative gain", which called for the setting up of the working party. The motion emphasized an overriding commitment to persuade the City, government and industry to have proper regard for the long-term needs and interests of the community.

Mr Phillips said that the Liberal Party did not have effective, thought-through policies on the City.

Mr Iain Morrison, Croydon South, said that the City had been a black hole into which Liberalism had been afraid to venture.

The Office of Fair Trading was staffed by Civil Servants

New Act freezes drug cash

More than one hundred restraint orders have so far been made on drug-trafficking criminals under the new powers to stop them from salting away their assets before a trial. A Home Office official told the IBA conference yesterday.

Mr Nigel Varney, head of the Home Office's division on criminal law, said that the Drug Trafficking Offences Act 1986 enabled the High Court to restrain the use or distribution of an accused's assets before a trial.

"So far there have only been a few cases which have reached the stage of conviction and confiscation; but enough to show that the Act is capable of being applied effectively and with good result."

Another important provision in the Act, which came into force on January 12, was the new "laundering" offence. That prohibits helping someone keep the benefits of drug trafficking, knowing or suspecting that the person was a drug trafficker.

The Government has suggested that governments worldwide follow suit.

Computer fraud 'could drain UK of sterling in 15 minutes'

By Frances Gibb
Legal Affairs Correspondent

A fraud linking two big electronic money transfer systems could empty the United Kingdom of sterling in 15 minutes, Mr Kenneth Lindup, an inspector from Barclays Bank, said yesterday.

He told lawyers at the International Bar Association conference in London that the potential for fraud involving vast sums of money was now enormous.

In the course of the average day, some £25-30 billion was transferred between the UK clearing banks using CHAPS (clearing houses automated payments systems).

In addition the individual banks were transferring money internationally using their own networks. Sums of £2 million to £3 million a day were typical, he said.

A fraud linking CHAPS with SWIFT, the world-wide financial message switching service, could empty the United Kingdom of sterling in 15 minutes.

In the case of the fraud



INTERNATIONAL BAR ASSOCIATION

Sir Frederick Lawton, a retired Court of Appeal Judge, yesterday called for an end to trial by jury in complex fraud cases.

Sir Frederick told the conference: "The modern large-scale swindle, with its field of operation extending over many jurisdictions, is difficult enough for experienced judges to try, and probably impossible for a jury drawn at random from the electoral roll."

He said that trial by a single judge would probably not be acceptable to the British public but three judges or one judge sitting with commercial assessors might be. Abolition of juries in complex cases was proposed by the Roskill Committee on fraud trials but shelved by the Government after widespread opposition.

Computer crime was carried out by interfering with or illegally modifying a computer system for illegal gain in a way that would not have been possible with manual systems.

He said the typical computer criminal was not as the public perceived him: "a hacker penetrating a system using a home computer". The most likely perpetrator is an employee of the victim, exploiting a weakness in the system. He or she was likely to be in a well-placed job, prob-

ably using drugs and with financial difficulties.

Among the gaps in controls which give rise to computer frauds are a failure to check message authentication codes; failure to protect confidential data and a lack of adequate security training.

Another was failure to ensure adequate separation between staff carrying out transactions and those checking them.

Professor Michael Levi, senior lecturer in criminology at University College, Cardiff, told the conference that computer crime was rarer than the public imagined.

He said it was costing the United Kingdom approximately £40 million annually. But such crime constituted only a small proportion of the £2.113 billion of fraud dealt with by the UK fraud squads in 1985.

He added, however, that hi-tech crimes of espionage, computer fraud and damage, and counterfeiting were a big potential risk facing any commercial or government organization.

Attack on extradition proposals

A QC yesterday strongly attacked a government proposal to make it easier for other countries to extradite criminals from the United Kingdom.

Mr Colin Nicholls, QC, told the conference that the proposal, in the Criminal Justice Bill, would abolish the rule under which requesting states must produce "prima facie" evidence of guilt. It appeared to treat the ordeal of being arrested, removed to a distant foreign jurisdiction and kept in custody there "as a hardship on no consequence, so long as the fugitive is eventually acquitted."

The Government assumed that the Secretary of State could ensure flimsy or tenuous requests for extradition would be refused, but nowhere in the Bill was there any provision requiring him to ensure that there was evidence, or that it had been judicially examined in the requesting state.

Government arguments that an extradition treaty indicated justifiable faith in a state's criminal justice system failed to distinguish between that system and the executive.

Third World alert on Mafia cash

Organized crime has moved into commerce on such a huge scale that it poses a threat to national economies, particularly in the Third World, the conference was told yesterday.

Dr Barry Rider, chief Commonwealth fraud officer, Commonwealth crime unit, at the Commonwealth Secretariat, said that the new groups of criminals were handing such vast sums of money that their activities were undermining society like a cancer.

Money obtained through commercial and economic crime was diverted to other crimes such as drugs trafficking, smuggling, firearms and political assassination, he said.

Most policemen took the view that traditional organized crime as with the Mafia or the Triads was dead, Dr Rider said.

But increasing evidence was coming to light that "senior managements" of those gangs and their "families" had merely "legitimized" themselves and now operated from the comforts of board rooms rather than the back rooms of gambling and drug dens. Those criminal groups had

developed into tight cells beyond the reach of police and no longer needed "armies" to run their street empires.

Instead they were in management and finance business, advising both legal and illicit operations, often franchised to criminal organizations.

The sums of money involved should not be underestimated, he added. In a number of cases, advance fees, frauds and simple cases of diversion had resulted in sums in excess of 20 million dollars being misappropriated.

"The US Treasury has estimated that the illicit narcotics industry in the US alone is presently running in excess of 70 billion dollars a year."

In one case referred to his unit, Dr Rider said, fraud thought to be in excess of 2 billion dollars apparently created by some Eastern bloc countries to strengthen a particular government had been substantially diverted into crime.

To do all that, Dr Rider said, the groups used off-shore banks, secret bank accounts, foreign nominees and "washed" the money through ordinary investment facilities.

Magistrate refuses bail as a protest against prison staff

A man charged with providing a false alibi was refused bail yesterday because of the prison authorities' "appalling" habit of failing to bring remand prisoners to court.

Mr Eric Crowther, presiding in the Horseferry Road Magistrates' Court, admitted that he was resorting to "unpleasantly devious methods" in refusing bail but he added that while it was "an appalling infringement of the liberty of the subject that he has to be remanded in custody even for just one hour more than necessary, it is also an appalling infringement of the liberty of the subject when prison staff do not bring him to court."

Mr David Bate, counsel for the accused, said that police did not object to bail on the new charge and said the man's four co-defendants were already on bail. He argued that there was no reason under the Bail Act for refusing his client bail.

Mr Crowther disagreed on the ground of the risk of non-production of the prisoner by prison staff. He said the reason under the Act would be

recorded as the courts fear the man would fail to appear — albeit through no fault of his own.

"The court has to adopt unpleasantly devious methods in order to have prisoners produced at court, because prison staff are refusing to bring them in certain circumstances," he said.

The magistrate added: "I register the strongest possible protest against this custom of not producing prisoners."

Mr Crowther has long been a fierce critic of prison authorities who blame staff shortages for the problem, once describing them as "slovenly" and suggesting that held defendants could sue them for wrongful imprisonment.

As Mr Crowther was making his remarks, lawyers were preparing to protest to the Home Office at the ban on visits by solicitors to prisoners in Wandsworth Prison. The ban was imposed on Tuesday by the Prison Officers' Association but was lifted yesterday after the Home Office agreed to urgent discussions on staffing.

The 254 officers at the prison decided on industrial action in protest at the staffing level which they claim is 30 under strength.

Mr Ron Tasker, acting governor at the prison, said the men had refused to work overtime and maintained only basic services to prisoners: unlocking, feeding, stopping out, bathing and exercise.

As a result of the protest the Home Office said it had agreed to honour an earlier commitment to maintain 269 prison officers at Wandsworth each week and to establish appropriate accommodation figures for prisoners.

It had also given an assurance that "fresh start" manning levels would be discussed using the same criteria that had been applied at other prisons.

A solicitor who was refused access to a client accused of a breach of prison discipline said the ban was incredible.

"That is the sort of thing you expect in Iron Curtain countries, I never expected to find it here," he said. He would be making a personal protest to the Home Office.



Gavin Sharpe, aged 17, with fellow pupils of the City of London School, whose charity committee raised £47,000 for the Joseph Patrick Memorial Trust for muscular dystrophy victims (Photograph: Tim Bishop).

Secret cameras sought to trap speeding drivers

Hidden cameras should be introduced to trap speeding motorists, a road safety seminar was told yesterday.

Mr Terence Frost, deputy chief constable of Gwent, said that the Association of Chief Police Officers was anxious for authority to introduce the cameras.

He told the seminar at Salford, Greater Manchester, that the association wel-

comed the use of modern technology to enforce road safety, although it recognized that the widespread use of cameras might be criticized as "big brother" surveillance or considered an infringement of civil liberties.

Mr Frost said that the number of road accidents was so great that an immediate improvement in the Road Traffic Act was essential. The offence of dangerous driving should be reintroduced and existing laws improved. Some, Mr Frost

said, defied belief in their complexity.

In 1985, 5,165 people died on British roads, 70,980 were seriously injured and a further 241,379 needed hospital treatment. Every fatal accident cost £237,000.

Mr Frost said that there were as many road deaths in 12 months as the Aids virus would cause in the next six years. Had the equivalent death toll been sustained in 28 Zeebrugge ferry disasters or 12 jumbo jet crashes, the public outcry would be irresistible.

Mayhew defends new court service

By Frances Gibb

The Attorney General, Sir Patrick Mayhew, QC, replied to media criticism of the Crown Prosecution Service last night.

Addressing the Mid-Kent Conservative Association, he said the service was getting a "panning in the media" which was "unjustified and unfair".

"At present there seems in some quarters to be almost a 'line' that the CPS is no good and breaking down. It is quite untrue; but bad news about new things in Britain sells better than good news."

Sir Patrick said that in more than a million prosecutions, only a minute fraction had given rise to any complaint.

In the vast majority of instances, the faults had arisen elsewhere.

Sir Patrick said that replies to media criticism were seldom given equal prominence. He criticized *The Times* for a delay of more than two publication days in printing a letter from the Director of Public Prosecutions correcting a point in an editorial about the quashing of the Heyes Stadium extradition order.

He admitted that there were real shortcomings, particularly in London, where there was a shortage of lawyers.

Hungerford aftermath

Visible scars heal in massacre town

By David Sapsted

A month after Michael Ryan's moment of madness, Hungerford is pulling through. Slowly, painfully, the people of the Berkshire market town are coming to terms with the legacy of the massacre on August 19.

The reason for the 16 killings remains incomprehensible and the effects of the deaths still reach into almost every corner of the 5,000-strong community. Outwardly, though, life is returning to something close to normality.

Gone are the television cameras and the huge police presence. Dwindling are the numbers of ghoulish tourists who poured in at first, armed with newspaper clippings to enable them to retrace the route of Ryan's final, bloody march.

"People are once more coming to look at Hungerford's antique shops rather than to gawp at our tragedy", Mr Maurice Bond, co-ordinator of the appeal fund established to help the bereaved, says. The spotlight has moved on and there is little relish in Hungerford at the prospect of it returning when the inquests on the 16 deaths, and on Ryan himself, reopen next week in the church hall.

Physical reminders of the massacre have all but disappeared, too. The first four houses in South View have been bulldozed flat by Newbury District Council, leaving little evidence of the day Ryan set fire to his own home at No 4 and, as the blaze spread, shot his fleeing mother in the back and stomach.

South View suffered the brunt of his murderous attack and the scars will take months, perhaps years, to heal. Four of the remaining 12 houses in the street are empty now, their occupants having moved out in the wake of the killings.

No 6 stands empty for a different reason: the elderly couple who lived there, Mr and Mrs Roland Mason, were shot dead by Ryan.

"They were such a lovely couple. We all miss them. But South View is our home; we will not be moving", Mrs Sharon Silk, next-door neighbour, says.

"I suppose we have all thought of moving somewhere else at one time or another since the shooting but, even if we did, what good would it do? The memories of what happened would still be there". Mrs Jennifer Mildenhall says. Her daughter Lisa, aged 14, was left for dead by Ryan after he shot her in

the stomach in the front garden of her home.

There is, perhaps, a touch of xenophobia about Hungerford one month on but many of the fears initially expressed about the likely psychological effects in the aftermath of the tragedy have not materialized.

The children at John o' Gaunt Comprehensive, where Ryan defied police before turning a rifle on himself, have settled down with the remarkable resilience of the young.

"Yes, we were worried but it has turned out to be the best start to a school year I can remember in 12 years here."

Police chief rejects calls on gun control

Calls for tighter gun controls in the area where the Hungerford killings took place were rejected yesterday by Mr Colin Smith, Thames Valley chief constable.

He told the area's police authority that, despite a moratorium imposed on the licensing of semi-automatic weapons by several forces, including the Metropolitan Police, since the killings, the law left little scope for discretion on the issue of licences.

Mr Smith, who has urged that a ban be imposed on storing ammunition at home, said he had told the Prime Minister and the Home Secretary his post-Hungerford views on new, tougher gun laws. "Some things are best done quietly."

A report from Mr Smith on the Hungerford shootings was later discussed at the authority's quarterly meeting at Kidlington, near Oxford.

After the meeting, Mr Julian Jacotet said he was "devastated" that his motion on curbing the issue of firearms certificates had been defeated.

had hoped that things would work out. In fact, my best hopes have been exceeded", Mr David Lee, the head teacher, says.

Amid some fuss from her friends, Lisa Mildenhall went back to John o' Gaunt this week and "is now just another girl in school". Mr Lee says. She and the 700 or so other pupils still have their English lessons in Room 6, its windows repaired and its smashed furniture replaced since Ryan expressed regret at shooting his mother before killing himself.

Sisters sentenced for frenzied attack on GP

Two young mothers were sentenced yesterday for beating up a doctor in his surgery.

Dr Nowshir Driver told Sharnbrook Crown Court, east London, that the two sisters, aged 18 and 20, turned into "frenzied animals" when he refused to see them together.

Lorraine Stevens, of Disraeli Road, Forest Gate, east London, was given four months' youth custody and her younger sister Doreen, of Stevens Road, Stratford, east London, was given three months. Both denied assault causing actual bodily harm.

Dr Driver, aged 37, said that he was attacked at the Lord Lister Health Centre in Forest Gate after ordering Lorraine to wait outside his surgery while he saw Doreen. "They were like frenzied animals. They punched, kicked, scratched and spat at me. I fell to the ground and two patients had to pull them off me."

He crawled back to his office but the door burst open. They had a metal drip stand in their hands, with the pointed end towards me. They charged me and stabbed me in the chest. They were hysterical."

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WORLD SUMMARY

Arrests after drug find on Navy ship

Hong Kong (AP) — Four people, including two junior Hong Kong Chinese naval officers, were arrested yesterday after police seized drugs and arms aboard a Royal Navy patrol craft that returned here from a cruise to Thailand, police reported. One of the Chinese crewmen was arrested after three pistols, 150 rounds of ammunition and 28½ lb of herbal cannabis with a retail value of £70,000 were found in his locker aboard HMS Swift.

Another two revolvers, 200 rounds of ammunition and 35 lb of heroin base were found hidden in the locker of the other arrested seaman, police said.

The heroin base, if manufactured locally, would have yielded about £970,000 worth of high-grade heroin, a police statement said. Two other men, believed to have been waiting to receive the drugs, pistols and ammunition, were arrested ashore at a car park.

Turkish leaders meet

Ankara — Mr Bülent Ecevit, a former Turkish Social Democrat prime minister and the leader of the Democratic Left Party, yesterday met President Kenan Evren who led the 1980 Army coup which deprived him of his political rights until recently (Rasit Gurdilek writes).

Mr Ecevit said after the 50-minute meeting that they had discussed the country's problems and international subjects. He had told the President of his misgivings about the amended election law. Mr Turgut Ozal, the Prime Minister, has called a general election for November 1.

EEC faces Gorla vow cash crisis on Gulf

Brussels — The EEC lurched one step closer to yet another crisis early yesterday when a meeting called to draft a budget for 1988 broke up in disarray (Our Correspondent writes).

Treasury ministers were faced with a bewildering array of alternative budget options, all either unrealistic or illegal.

The European Commission is proposing a £28.7 billion budget for 1988 based on the assumption that EEC leaders will agree to increase the spending limit at their Copenhagen summit meeting at the end of the year. But Britain, Spain and West Germany are unwilling to prejudice Copenhagen and are determined to remain within the cash limits.

Lebanese editor shot

West Beirut — Another Lebanese journalist was shot and gravely wounded in an assassination attempt in west Beirut yesterday (Robert Fisk writes). He is Mr Elie Malouf, a foreign editor on the daily *an-Nahar* newspaper.

Guns opened fire as he drove through Tallet al-Khayat suburb, hitting him in the abdomen, shoulder and face. Mr Malouf, a Christian, is also head of the education department in the Syrian Social Nationalist Party. The Lebanese press has already shut down in protest at the shooting this week of Mr Hassan Sabra, editor of *ash-Shiraa* magazine.

Rumasa chief arrested

Madrid — Acting on a warrant related to alleged violations of currency regulations, Spanish police have arrested Señor José María Ruiz-Mateos, right, whose Rumasa business empire was seized by the Government in 1983 (Harry Debelius writes).

Señor Ruiz-Mateos, who was on provisional liberty pending trial, was held on Thursday in the Pyrenees after failing to appear at a police station in Madrid.

A few hours before the arrest he had said in a telephone conversation broadcast by Spain's principal privately-owned radio network, Cope, that he was deliberately refusing to report regularly to police, in order to protest against the fact that nearly five years have passed since he was first accused formally, yet he has not yet been tried.

FBI agents swoop to snatch wanted Arab in Mediterranean

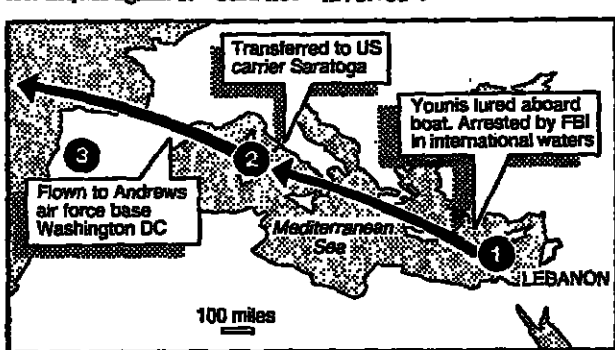
From Christopher Thomas, Washington

The United States plans to step up its search for international terrorists after the unprecedented seizure of a wanted plane hijacker in a top-secret operation somewhere in the Mediterranean.

Looking dazed and bewildered, Fawaz Younis stood before the US District Court in Washington, silently listening to an interpreter telling him that he was charged with hostage-taking and destruction of an aircraft.

The Shia Muslim was captured by FBI agents who had rented a boat and, according to one senior official, tempted him aboard with a promise of drugs. It was the first operation of its kind but Mr Edwin Meese, the Attorney-General, said emphatically: "It won't be the last."

Mr Younis, aged 28, who is Lebanese, is accused of taking part in the hijacking of a Jordanian airliner in 1985. At least four Americans were on board, but nobody was killed. The Justice Department insisted that no other country was involved in the operation, code-named "Golden rod". It refused to give details of how it was carried out or by which section of the FBI, saying that it might want to use the same techniques again. It would not



100 miles



Flashback to 1985: The man named in Washington as Fawaz Younis, and known in Beirut as "Nazih", centre, reading a statement to journalists at Beirut airport shortly before a hijacked Jordanian Boeing was blown up.

Hijacker known in Beirut as 'Nazih'

From Robert Fisk, West Beirut

The hijacking of a Jordanian airliner in 1985 was one of the more extraordinary acts of sky piracy to be witnessed in Lebanon, although the leader of the gunmen who boarded the plane was known here as "Nazih" — not Fawaz Younis — and he was apparently acting with dissident elements of the Shia Muslim Amal militia.

The affair ended on the tarmac of Beirut airport's runway 1-3 on June 12, when the six hijackers, all dressed in military uniforms with hand-grenades strapped to their waists, allowed the passengers to leave the Boeing 727 before

embracing the Swedish pilot, kissing him on both cheeks — and blowing up his empty plane in front of his eyes.

The six men then climbed slowly into a BMW and a Range-Rover and drove swiftly across the runway towards the southern Shia suburbs of Beirut beside the airport.

When I approached the burning aircraft shortly afterwards, an officer in the Amal militia who then controlled that section of the airport, who gave his name as Abu Mustapha, smiled broadly and said that the hijackers had made their escape "through the jungle where it was impossible to follow". His irony was obvious: not even a tree sepa-

rates the airport from the slums into which the gunmen dispersed.

But there was a double irony, for the hijackers had been demanding what not only Amal but the Israelis had been insisting on for several months — the evacuation of those Palestinian guerrillas who had returned to Beirut after the Israelis had withdrawn their occupation army south of the Awali River. The gunmen had also demanded that Mr Chadi Kibbi, the secretary-general of the Arab League, should come to Beirut to negotiate with the PLO men.

"Abu Mustapha" was later dismissed from his post by Mr Nabih Berri, the leader of the

Amal militia. But nothing more was seen of the gunmen themselves or of "Nazih", who had announced that he and his fellow hijackers belonged to the "Brigade of the Martyrs of the Lebanese Resistance". At one point he had threatened to blow up the aircraft with the passengers still inside and some Amal gunmen later claimed that the seven Jordanian security men, whose job had been to prevent a hijack, had been buried alive in the plane.

It was untrue. And the hijackers failed in their objectives. The Palestinians did not leave the camps, and the war that had already started between the PLO and Amal is continuing even today.

Allies view future European security with caution

Britain welcomes aim of test ban talks

By Michael Evans, Defence Correspondent

The Government yesterday welcomed the "long-term" aim of a comprehensive test ban, following the announcement in Washington that the United States and the Soviet Union are to restart full-scale negotiations on nuclear testing in December.

But officials were cautious. The talks would involve only the Soviet Union and the US but inevitably Britain could be drawn in if an agreement were reached. But the officials said that there was no question of a ban in the foreseeable future because both Britain and the US needed to continue with the testing while new warheads were being developed.

For Britain, there is still a whole series of tests required before the warhead for the Trident D5 missile system is completed. The Government's atomic weapons research establishment at Aldermaston in Berkshire has been developing the warhead ever since the agreement was signed between Britain and

the US to purchase Trident as the nuclear deterrent to replace Polaris in the 1990s.

A number of tests at the Nevada desert have already been successfully carried out.

Once the Trident warhead had been perfected, there would be less need for Britain to continue testing at Nevada. However, a comprehensive test ban would be possible only if the Soviet Union and the US had achieved a significant reduction in every range of nuclear weapons. It would also necessitate very strict verification procedures to stop either side from cheating.

The Russians are anxious to ban tests now because they want to stop the American Strategic Defence Initiative (Star Wars) from progressing to the production stage. A large percentage of the current American tests involve Star Wars experiments. They need to carry out low-yield tests to check the "nuclear effects" on weapon systems.

If a comprehensive ban were signed, it would mean that British nuclear scientists would have to rely on simulated explosions in computer tests. These already take place at Aldermaston. But the checks on the survivability and reliability of nuclear warheads are based on scientific theory and it is considered crucial at this stage to continue with the practical tests in Nevada.

Nuclear stockpiles also have to be regularly monitored for corrosion. Yesterday, as the Russians staged an underground nuclear test at the Semipalatinsk site in Soviet Central Asia, Mr Denis Davis, the Labour Party spokesman on defence, called on Mrs Thatcher to give a pledge to stop all testing after an INF agreement to eliminate medium-range missiles

had been signed between the Soviet Union and the US.

He said: "Once this testing is banned, then this would lead the way to making nuclear weapons obsolete and eventually to their complete elimination. As a measure and gesture of goodwill, Mrs Thatcher should announce that while these talks on nuclear testing are going on, Britain will not test any more nuclear weapons."

Yesterday Foreign Office officials said that, as a first step, it would be sensible to ratify the Threshold Test Ban Treaty of 1974 and the Peaceful Nuclear Explosions Treaty of 1976. Though both were signed, they were never ratified.

In 1980, trilateral negotiations on a comprehensive treaty between the Soviet Union, the US and Britain were postponed, when it was agreed that further studies were needed on the question of verification.

In 1982, President Reagan announced that he did not intend to continue with the negotiations.

As the superpowers this week inched toward a double-zero intermediate-range (INF) missiles deal by the end of the year, Nato troops in northern Germany carried out massive exercises designed to repel an attack by the Warsaw Pact.

Next week, French and German forces will carry out manoeuvres in Bavaria, with Chancellor Helmut Kohl and President Mitterrand meeting to mark the first Franco-German military operation under a unified command.

West Germany is looking beyond the double-zero to a world in which cruise and Pershing missiles have gone and Western Europe is left to defend itself largely with conventional troops plus — assuming they are not also negotiated out of existence in the next round — tactical short-range nuclear weapons.

All such weapons are in Germany, on the "fault line" of Europe. "This induces angst for two reasons," one arms control expert in Bonn said. "If war broke out, the thousands of short-range missiles in the Warsaw Pact

would hit only West Germany. But, no less important, the ones we have, no more than 100, would hit only East Germany — which is still Germany, after all."

A behind-the-scenes debate is going on in Bonn over whether the short-range systems such as Lance, or "stand-off" missiles, carried by fighters, should be modernized and upgraded in the wake of an INF deal, or abolished altogether.

Herr Manfred Wörner, the Defence Minister, is said by some Bonn observers to favour the first option in order to maintain Nato's doctrine of flexible response.

This view has support from General John Galvin, the new Nato Supreme Commander. But in Bonn there is opposition to it from the Social Democrats as well as from within the ruling coalition.

The West German right-wing has lost a series of arms control battles. It failed to prevent the extension of the original zero option to cover shorter-range missiles. It then became inevitable, diplomats

say, that Herr Kohl would be unable to keep, let alone modernize, West Germany's ageing Pershing 1A missiles.

But the real problem for the Kohl Government is that even some right-wingers in the Christian Social Union (CSU), Bavarian sister party of the ruling CDU, are now wondering aloud what the point is of keeping short-range weapons once cruise and the Pershings have gone.

The concept of keeping missiles with a range below 300 miles is known as a *Brandmauer* (fire wall) and, as Herr Alfred Dregger, the CDU leader in Parliament, recently pointed out, only (East and West) Germans would get burned.

If the coalition nonetheless decides to go for short-range modernization, it will have a major public relations problem on its hands. The West German public, like the rest of Europe, is encouraged by progress towards disarmament, and the successes of Mr Mikhail Gorbachev's era of *glasnost*. It seems illogical to many to halt the process. The insistence of the West German Foreign Minister, Herr Hans Dietrich Genscher, that Mr Gorbachev must be taken at his word in the interests of peace, has won the FDP gains in recent local elections, while the CDU has suffered setbacks.

The likely outcome is that Bonn, in consultation with other Nato members, will seek a post-INF order of priorities, which concentrates on strategic reductions, chemical weapons (West Germany is the only Nato state outside America to possess them), and conventional forces, with short-range nuclear weapons at the bottom of the list.

"The priority is to tackle the Warsaw Pact's three-to-one conventional advantage," one Government adviser said.

Thanksgiving summit likely

It has long been President Reagan's conviction that if he could only get a Soviet leader over to America, show him the country, the people and the way of life, the ideological scales would fall from his eyes.

Two years ago, before any arms treaty was on the horizon, Mr Reagan spoke of wanting out to Mr Mikhail Gorbachev the private houses and prosperous farms they would see from the plane as they flew over the US. Now he will have his chance. The date of the summit has not been fixed, but it is increasingly likely to be around the end of November, after the Soviet revolutionary celebrations and

before the American Thanksgiving holiday.

Mr Gorbachev must remain in Moscow before the important party Central Committee meeting that precedes the October revolution celebrations on November 7. The US will not want to wait until December, however, when the weather begins to worsen and the country is getting ready for Christmas.

Congress, which adjourns in December, may want to invite Mr Gorbachev to address a joint meeting but will be busy with remaining legislation.

A further clue to a date is Mr Reagan's clear wish to play host to Mr Gorbachev

and his wife. What more natural than to invite them to his California ranch for a family Thanksgiving dinner on November 26? Such a gesture would be appropriate at the end of the official summit.

And Mr Gorbachev could visit Disneyland in Los Angeles, San Francisco and a mid-western farm.

Given that at least one working day is needed for the delegations to prepare themselves, a logical date for the start of the official summit — which would probably last only two days — would be Tuesday, November 24.

Complete texts of the Washington statements

Following is the text of President Reagan's brief announcement yesterday about the results of the US-Soviet talks in Washington.

Secretary Shultz has reported to me on the results of his talks with Foreign Minister Shevardnadze. As you know, the talks covered arms reductions, regional conflicts, human rights and bilateral relations. Although we have serious differences in many areas, the tone of the talks was frank, constructive, and notable progress was made.

Secretary Shultz and Foreign Minister Shevardnadze have issued a joint statement which I believe you all have. I am pleased to note that agreement in principle was reached to conclude an INF treaty.

They will meet again in Moscow next month to continue their efforts to work out the details of a summit between me and General Secretary Gorbachev later this fall (autumn).

I want to congratulate Secretary Shultz and Foreign Minister Shevardnadze and their delegations for their outstanding efforts over the past three days.

The Secretary is going to take your questions.

The full text of a joint statement by Mr Shultz and Mr Shevardnadze issued yesterday:

Secretary of State Shultz and Foreign Minister Shevardnadze have completed three days of thorough and useful discussions on all aspects of the relationship between the two countries.

The Secretary and the Foreign Minister reviewed the full spectrum of questions regarding nuclear, conventional and chemical weapons arms control. In particular, the two ministers, together with their advisers, conducted intensive negotiations on the question of intermediate-range and shorter-range missiles.

This resulted in agreement in principle to conclude a treaty. The Geneva delegations of both sides have been instructed to work intensively to resolve remaining technical issues and promptly to complete a draft treaty text.

The Secretary and Foreign Minister agreed that a similarly intensive effort should be made to achieve a treaty on 50 per cent reductions in strategic offensive arms within the framework of the Geneva nuclear and space talks.

Having discussed questions related to nuclear testing, the two sides agreed to begin, before December 12, 1987, full-scale stage-by-stage negotiations which will be conducted in a single forum. They approved a separate statement on this subject.

The Secretary and the Foreign Minister also discussed regional issues.

The two sides discussed a broad range of issues concerning bilateral relations. A work-

programme was agreed, to be implemented in 1987-88, designed to intensify joint efforts in various areas of US-Soviet co-operation.

A constructive discussion of human rights issues and humanitarian questions took place.

Secretary Shultz and Foreign Minister Shevardnadze agreed that an additional meeting is needed to review the results of the work in all of these areas, including the efforts of the delegations in the Geneva nuclear and space talks. They agreed that this

meeting would take place in Moscow in the second half of October.

In order to sign a treaty on intermediate-range and shorter-range missiles, and to cover the full range of issues in the relationship between the two countries, a summit between President Reagan and General Secretary Gorbachev will take place. The summit will be held in the fall of 1987, with exact dates to be determined during the talks between the Secretary of State and the Foreign Minister in Moscow in October.

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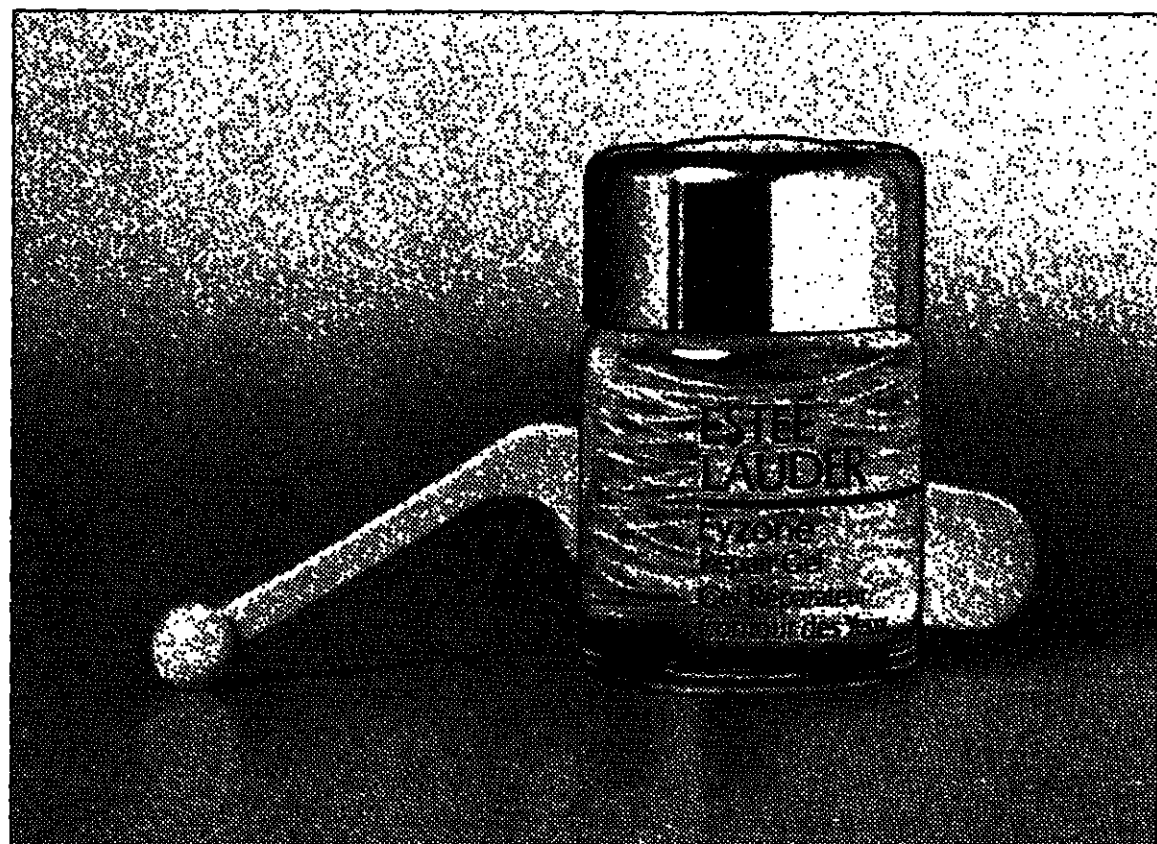
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Strategic value of New Caledonia

Franco-Australian row over 'carrier-island' worries US

From Stephen Taylor, Nouméa, New Caledonia

The French call it *Le Caillou* (The Pebble) but General Douglas MacArthur was closer to the strategic importance of New Caledonia when he described it as a perfect South Pacific aircraft carrier.

As the Soviet Union and her proxies trawl for fish and influence in the region — which is no longer simply a benign and immense Western waterway — that strategic value is taking on an additional significance. And yet, worryingly for the United States, it is also the basis of a bitter diplomatic rift between France and Australia.

Relations between the two countries have never been worse. The Chirac Government has refused to meet Australian ministers for months. The Australian consul-general in New Caledonia was expelled in January, and his successor has been systematically cold-shouldered.

Australians — and journalists in particular — occupy a special place in the demonology of the French settlers here, the Caldoches. Cafe and bar talk in Nouméa over the past two weeks has been loud in denunciation of Anglo-Saxon surrogates, Australia and New Zealand, who are seen as trying to oust France from the Pacific and establish new empires of their own.

When Mr Bob Hawke, the Australian Prime Minister, said that last week's referendum on the future of New Caledonia would not make the independence movement disappear, the local newspaper, *Les Nouvelles*, described Australia's attitude as "incorrigible".

The paper feeds local prejudice with a stream of vitriolic

Nouméa — The Kanak separatist leader, M Jean-Marie Tjibaou, yesterday rejected a call by the French Prime Minister, M Jacques Chirac, for New Caledonia's two opposing camps to work together and said his FLNKS group would take no part in talks over a proposed statute giving the territory greater autonomy (Reuters reports). M Tjibaou said M Chirac's journey to the South Pacific island was part of his bid to garner votes in the run-up to France's presidential elections next May.

material portraying Australia as a scheming hegemonist.

This hostility throws up some unusual attitudes. A visitor yesterday asking for stamps to send postcards to South Africa and Australia was told by a Caldoche vendor: "South Africa good, Australia no good."

As Canberra sees it, the slide started in 1985 with the Rainbow Warrior affair. Having previously given implicit support at the United Nations to France's regional presence — in the face of Melanesian and Polynesian hostility — Australian policy underwent a change after the French sabotage of the Greenpeace flagship.

When, last December, the South Pacific Forum nations presented a motion at the UN for New Caledonia to be reinscribed by the Decolonization Committee, Canberra lent its support. The motion was successful. M Jacques Chirac, the French Prime Minister, was deeply upset. The Caldoches were outraged. The Australian view is that

distorting what is happening in New Caledonia. One remark by Mr Hawke, that the territory was heading for "a bloodbath", especially incensed Paris. After the peaceful referendum campaign a senior French official here gestured angrily out of his window. "Blood? Do you see any blood out there? Mr Hawke is not being very considerate."

So far, the United States has stayed out of the brawl. But instability in the Philippines and Fiji adds to new strategic concerns in the South Pacific, particularly as the US has to renegotiate its tenure at Subic Bay base by 1991. And the US military will not have forgotten that New Caledonia was a headquarters during the Battle of the Coral Sea.

A possible meeting between Mr Bill Hayden, the Australian Foreign Minister, and his French opposite number, M Jean-Bernard Raimond, in New York later this month, could be the start of a thaw.

But the Chirac Government has signalled that it is in a chauvinistic mood in the South Pacific, and for the time being it is difficult to see to terms with that.

PARIS: France said yesterday it will go on deploying 2,000 extra troops sent to New Caledonia before the referendum (Reuters reports).

France, committed to the concept that her territories abroad give her an international role, can see only that Australia is interfering in domestic affairs. French officials accuse Canberra of treating the independence issue simplistically, and of

Fiji youths go on rampage



Smoke pouring from one of three shops petrol-bombed during an outbreak of arson and robbery in central Suva, Fiji, yesterday.

A police spokesman said that lorryloads of soldiers had been called in and one man was shot in the leg (Reuters reports). Several businesses owned by ethnic Indians were among those set on fire. A branch of the Bank of Baroda was robbed of more than £10,000 by a thief who took advantage of the chaos.

The spokesman added that the injured

person, who was not seriously wounded, was one of a gang of youths who rampaged through one of the city's busiest streets yesterday afternoon. He and a dozen other young Fijians, including the alleged bank robber, had been arrested.

Witnesses to the lawlessness said soldiers fired a couple of warning shots, then a burst of automatic fire into the air. The shooting and fires followed an army radio broadcast that said rumours were sweeping the city that trouble was about to break out.

Chinese meeting for Howe at UN

Peking (AFP) — Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, and his Chinese counterpart, Mr Wu Xueqian, will discuss Hong Kong's future at a meeting in New York next week, the British Embassy here said yesterday.

A spokesman said the meeting would also include discussions on Sino-British relations and international issues. The talks coincide with the two ministers' presence at the UN General Assembly.

Hong Kong is to revert to Chinese rule on July 1, 1997, while retaining political autonomy and its capitalist economy for 50 years. Peking has opposed proposals for direct legislative elections as early as next year, which could affect the way Hong Kong is run a decade ahead.

Tomas dies

Cascais (AP) — Admiral Americo de Deus Rodrigues Tomas, who was chosen as president by the former Portuguese dictator, Antonio Salazar, and ousted by a left-wing military coup in 1974, died at his home. He was 92.

Obituary, page 12

Shots suspect

Kingston (Reuters) — Police detained Dennis Lobban, who gave himself up as a suspect in the shooting to death last week of Peter Tosh, the Jamaican reggae star.

Writer freed

Athens (AP) — Mr Dimitris Rizos, a Greek newspaper columnist, who chose to serve a four-month jail sentence for criticizing the Socialist Government, has been freed after his newspaper, *Eleftheros Typos*, paid his £180 fine.

Death penalty

Brussels (AFP) — A Belgian couple, who tortured, raped and killed a nine-year-old girl they met on a beach, have been sentenced to death but will serve life imprisonment. No death penalty has been carried out in Belgium for more than 100 years.

Actor's honour

Los Angeles (Reuters) — Lee Marvin, the actor and Second World War Marine who died last month, aged 63, will be buried with military honours at Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia on October 7, a family spokesman said.

Contras free 80 as ministers haggle over peace details

From Martha Honey
San José, Costa Rica

Nicaraguan Contra leaders released 80 Sandinista prisoners of war yesterday in compliance with the amnesty called for under the Central American peace plan.

The prisoners were released to Costa Rican officials at the Liberia airport in northern Costa Rica, near the border with Nicaragua. They had been flown there aboard a Contra-owned DC-6 from an undisclosed location "inside Nicaragua", according to Señor Alfonso Robelo, a senior official of the Nicaraguan resistance.

Señor Robelo said that by releasing the prisoners "we are showing our goodwill and our total acceptance of the (peace) plan". The plan, which was signed by the five

Central American presidents in Guatemala on August 7, outlined steps for ending the wars in Nicaragua and El Salvador and implementing democratic reform, particularly in leftist Nicaragua.

Last Saturday President Ortega of Nicaragua freed 16 prisoners in one of a series of moves aimed at implementing the peace accord by the November 7 deadline.

At a press conference before the release, Señor Robelo said that the freed Sandinista soldiers will be given three options: to return immediately to Nicaragua; to remain in Costa Rica with political asylum; or to be transferred to another Central American country.

The Contra leader said that the US-backed Nicaraguan resistance has accepted the peace plan "with-

out reservations (although) we don't consider it perfect".

He said some things had been left out of the plan including a requirement that Nicaragua's army, now part of the ruling Sandinista party, become a "national" army in order to assure it plays a "neutral role".

So far the Contras' willingness to co-operate with the plan has contrasted with the Reagan Administration's increasingly harsh criticism of it.

The Contras say they chose to release the prisoners in Costa Rica because that country borders Nicaragua and because President Arias is the architect and chief promoter of the peace plan. They say they are holding 30 more prisoners who will be released later.

This is the first time the Contras

have released captured Sandinista combatants.

MANAGUA: Progress was sluggish as foreign ministers from the five Central American countries which signed a peace agreement in Guatemala last month began two days of meetings here aimed at speeding up the implementation of the accord (David Gollob writes).

The foreign ministers' agenda included clarification of the amnesty provisions of the accords. According to the peace agreement, a regional ceasefire, an end to foreign support for rebel armies, the expulsion of rebel forces from their haven in neighbouring states, democratic reforms, and a political amnesty are all to take effect simultaneously on November 5, 90 days after the signing of the accord.

There is disagreement over

whether these measures must be taken simultaneously in all five countries, and whether the amnesty should apply to political prisoners, in addition to rebels who lay down their arms.

Meanwhile, officials from 13 Latin American countries, including the so-called *Contadora* group, as well as representatives of the United Nations and the Organization of American States, held separate, parallel sessions to discuss procedures for international verification of compliance with the accords.

This hectic diplomatic activity was punctuated by a surprise visit to Nicaragua from a Reagan Administration envoy. In a mission which he described as one of "peace and democracy," the US Education Secretary, Mr William Bennett,

said he had come to deliver a speech to Nicaraguan businessmen on the occasion of the bicentennial of the American Constitution.

In his speech, Mr Bennett urged Nicaraguans to "abolish" their Government, given the absence of the democratic freedoms available to citizens of the United States.

The speech was to have been delivered in Vermont, but at the instigation of the Assistant Secretary of State, Mr Elliott Abrams, the venue was switched at the last minute to the US Embassy in Managua. Describing Nicaragua as a "testing place" for the principles of the Constitution, Mr Bennett denied in a press conference that his presence had anything to do with the meetings of the Central American foreign ministers.

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Aids sufferers told: God loves you all without distinction or limit

Pope's demands for loyalty increase US Catholic dissent

From Charles Bremner, San Francisco

The Pope receives the faithful for communion at Detroit's Silver Dome stadium today at the end of the barnstorming United States tour which has generated admiration for the man while at the same time widening the gulf between American Catholics and the Vatican.

The Pope is expected to receive one of the warmest welcomes of his relatively lacklustre tour in Detroit, the home of a big European Catholic immigrant community. He is unlikely to be confronted there by the kind of protests which marked his day in San Francisco, where homosexual activists turned out to chant "Pope Go Home".

Yesterday, the Pope again heard a plea from Church leaders for changes on personal morality and the role of Catholic women that would respond to modern America. But, as in Los Angeles and elsewhere, he demanded loyalty to Vatican teachings. Small groups of demonstrators were on the streets as he drove to hold Mass by the sea at Candelstick Park, the home stadium of the Giants baseball and Fortyniners football teams.

By far the largest protest of his American tour was staged by about 2,000 homosexual men and women on Thursday evening as the Pope arrived at

an old Spanish mission after a visit to the Golden Gate Bridge. Police arrested a group of protesters from the "Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence", a homosexual organization satirizing the Church by dressing up as nuns.

The Pope, who condemns homosexuality as an evil, told Aids sufferers: "God loves you all, without distinction, without limit." He shook hands with some of them and embraced a four-year-old boy who contracted the disease after receiving a contaminated blood transfusion.

Even before the Pontiff left for Detroit, some senior American Catholics were assessing his mission as, at best, a mixed success. While his magnetic personal presence had undoubtedly uplifted the Church, his uncompromising demands for obedience to the Vatican have only heightened dissent.

The Pope laid down his policy on the streets in a blunt talk with his 320 American bishops in Los Angeles after they told him that many American Catholics could not accept the Church's strictures on sexual behaviour and women's equality.

The Rev Richard McBrien, professor of theology at Notre Dame University, said: "The Pope's speech to the bishops was a bold speech. It will have no effect at all on Catholics in

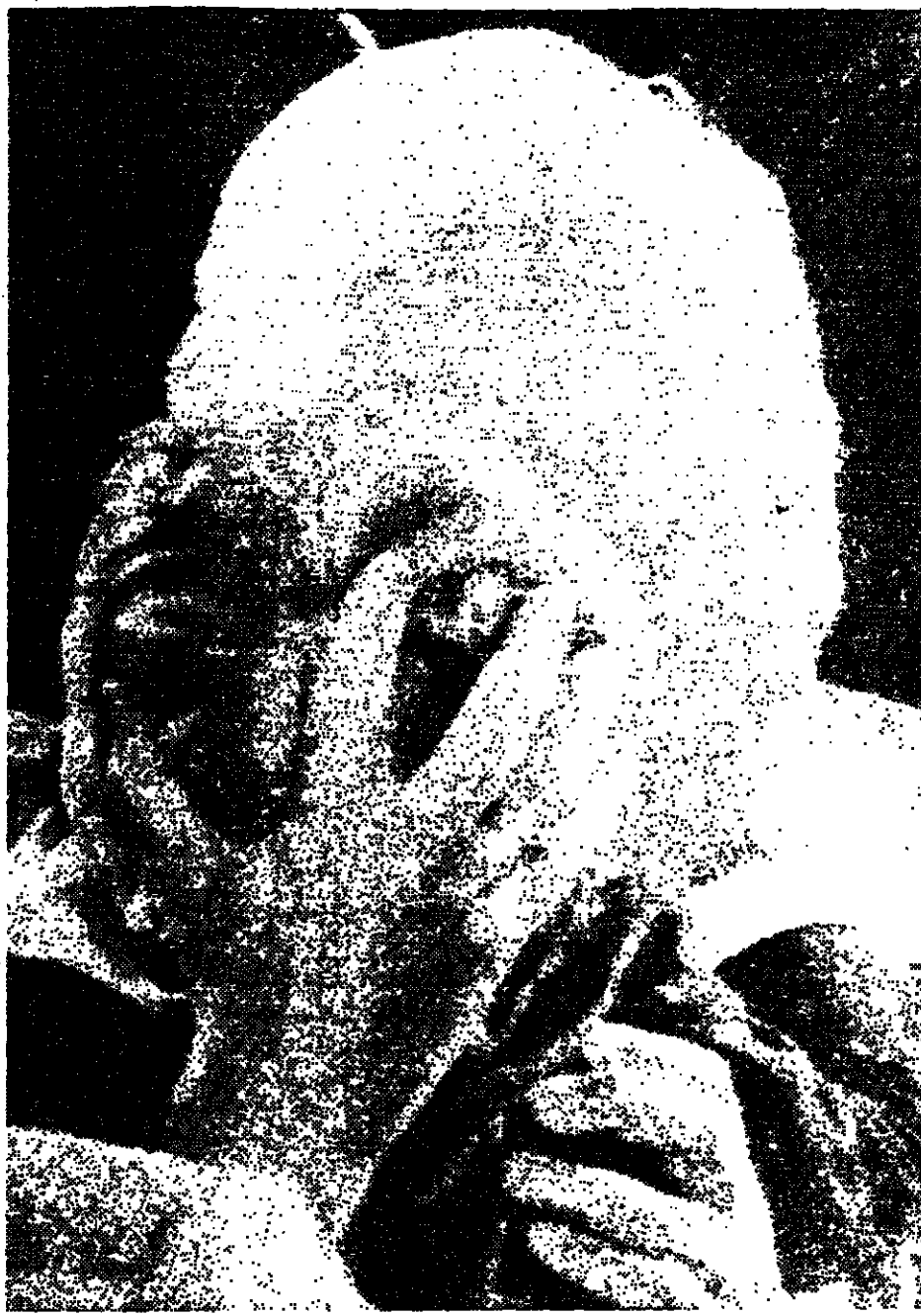
general, but it will make the bishops' job much harder."

Professor Harvey Cox of Harvard University's divinity department said the American Church had previously been discreet about its real attitude on issues such as birth control. "I'm afraid the Pope's visit has brought it all out very explicitly and it is going to have to be dealt with."

Vatican travellers said the response from the American public was one of the most lukewarm they had seen on the Pontiff's 36 foreign journeys. The "Second World Pope", who is far more at home with the Third World than the First, largely aimed his tour at the Hispanics by spending most of his time in the sunbelt southern states.

He supported their causes and responded with visible emotion to their joyful adoration at venues like San Antonio, Los Angeles and Monterey on Thursday.

In his California speeches, the Pontiff concentrated on the Spanish roots of the state, venerating the local candidate for sainthood, the eighteenth-century Father Junipero Serra, and called it the Promised Land for immigrants. Some local churchmen said they had the feeling the Pope had almost given up on his middle-class Californian flock and was pinning his hopes on the simple and the pure of heart.



The Pope embracing Brendan O'Rourke, aged four, at San Francisco's Mission Dolores Basilica. The boy contracted Aids from a transfusion of contaminated blood.

Moscow apologizes for shooting of a US soldier

Washington (Reuters) — Mr Edmund Shevardnadze, the Soviet Foreign Minister, expressed apologies yesterday for the shooting of a US soldier by Soviet troops in East Germany.

Mr Shevardnadze told a news conference here that, according to a report he had from Moscow on the incident, both Soviet and US soldiers were at fault.

"The Soviet side apologizes for

what happened and will take measures to ensure that such an incident does not recur in the future," he cited the report as saying.

● BONN: A spokesman at the United States Army Headquarters in Heidelberg, revealing the wounding of an American soldier by Soviet troops in East Germany, said yesterday that the Russians fired seven shots on Thursday at an unarmed two-man patrol from the American

Military Liaison Mission based at Potsdam (John Eagland writes).

The car's windscreen was shattered, and a bullet fragment wounded one of the soldiers in the arm, the spokesman said.

The Soviet troops then held the Americans for about 20 minutes before allowing them to drive back to Potsdam.

The wounded man was released from a West Berlin hospital yes-

terday as Washington made a strong protest to Moscow over the incident, which took place near Neuruppin, about 50 miles north-east of Potsdam.

The State Department denounced the shooting as "life-threatening and inexcusable".

The four powers — Britain, France, the United States and the Soviet Union — all maintain military missions in each other's old occupa-

tion zones in East and West Germany under a 1947 agreement.

Known as "licensed spies", the two-man patrols regularly gather military intelligence. They are sometimes harassed, but shootings are rare, although a US military mission officer, Lieutenant-Colonel Arthur Nicholson, was shot and killed by Soviet troops in East Germany in 1985, near one of their bases.

Tigers' leader poses

Tamil wants to live in UK

From Michael Hamlyn, Delhi

A former senior figure in the Tamil guerrilla movement from Sri Lanka is reportedly about to pose a problem for Britain by applying to immigrate.

Mr Sadasivam Krishnakumar, who used the codename "Kittu" when he commanded the forces of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam in the Jaffna Peninsula of northern Sri Lanka, was said yesterday to want to go to Britain because he has had enough of internal strife among the Tigers.

According to a report from a correspondent of the English-language daily, *The Statesman*, he wants to settle down and rebuild his life in a place away from his dream of an independent Tamil nation.

His right leg was shattered in an assassination attempt in Jaffna in March which has been blamed on a quarrel with

the founder and leader of the Tigers, Mr Vellupillai Prabhakaran. Commander Kittu was at school with Mr Prabhakaran in the fishing port of Velvetthurai in Jaffna and was widely regarded as the second-in-command of the organization.

Now *The Statesman* quotes



Mr Sadasivam Krishnakumar: Wants to rebuild life.

"a confidant" of his as saying that he will give as his reason for applying for a British visa that he wants to have an artificial leg fitted.

According to the report, Commander Kittu and his close colleague, Mr S. Kanakaratnam, known as "Rahim", have both received passports from the Sri Lankan Deputy High Commission in Madras. Commander Kittu's application marked the first time in four years that a top leader of the Tigers had recognized the authority of the Sri Lankan Government by seeking a passport, and the High Commission was keen to oblige him. Certain formalities were waived, and it was issued in record time.

A spokesman for the British High Commission in Delhi yesterday said that Commander Kittu had not yet applied for a visa.

Hong Kong book ruling

Paper goes to Privy Council

By Michael Evans, Defence Correspondent

Three law lords are to hear a special petition from the *Sunday Morning Post* in Hong Kong for leave to appeal to the Privy Council against a court ruling banning the publication of extracts from the book *Spycatcher* by Mr Peter Wright, the former MI5 officer.

Yesterday, a Hong Kong court refused to grant the newspaper leave to appeal to the Privy Council. Mr John Dux, the paper's editor-in-chief, immediately announced that he would make a direct appeal to the Privy Council.

Whitehall sources said yesterday that the newspaper had the right to petition for leave to appeal to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council. Lawyers for the newspaper would be required to fill in a number of documents, stating the reasons for an appeal.

Normally three law lords

would rule on the petition. If they approve, five law lords of the Judicial Committee will make the final judgement on whether the newspaper can print further extracts of *Spycatcher*. If the petition is lost, the newspaper will have no other legal avenue to pursue.

The newspaper's determination to continue the fight to publish passages from *Spycatcher* has landed the Government with another test case.

When the *Sunday Morning Post*, sister paper of the *South China Morning Post*, first published extracts in July, the Government won an interim injunction against the newspaper. However, this was overturned on appeal by a High Court judge in Hong Kong last month.

On September 8, the

Government took the case to the Court of Appeal, which reversed the decision.

Yesterday, in the latest stage of the legal battle between the Hong Kong newspaper and the Government, an Appeals Court panel agreed that the issue was of public importance and that the Privy Council could decide for itself whether to hear the case.

Judge Michael Kempster said: "If we grant the question (the Privy Council) will be seized with an appeal regardless of its own wishes. If we refuse, the *South China Morning Post* and other applicants can seek special leave directly."

He acknowledged unequivocally the existence of Nazi concentration camps, while defending his right to call them "a detail". "The concentration camps where millions of Jews, Gypsies, Christians and patriots from all Europe died and the methods used to put them to death constitute a chapter, a part, a detail of the history of the Second World War as is shown in all the general history books on the subject."

Two systems, communism and National Socialism, had created the concentration camps, according to M Le Pen; the second disappeared 42 years ago, while the first continues to produce misery.



M Le Pen: a "victim of intellectual terrorism".

written books claiming the camps were a figment of the Jewish imagination, who will now have to be mollified.

Yesterday's statement did little to calm the political uproar. On Thursday evening 5,000 people demonstrated in front of the National Assembly against M Le Pen. Politicians across the political spectrum were there to support this public protest.

Later on television President Mitterrand denounced M Le Pen's "detestable" remarks

Mitterrand fields TV questions on Aids, jobs and race

From Susan MacDonald, Paris

President Mitterrand met Christine Okrent, a television journalist, in a programme on Thursday night which, unusually for French television, actually dealt with the problems which interest the French public.

Although some part of the two-hour interview was given over to the night-fighting and rumour machine so beloved in political circles, in this case will President Mitterrand stand for another presidential term next year, most of the programme was dedicated to subjects such as terrorism, unemployment, racism and Aids.

Commenting on the right-wing Government, M Mitterrand warned that the new internal autonomy statute, just announced by the Prime Minister, M Jacques Chirac, for New Caledonia should not lead to the crystallization of a "colonial-type situation".

"The New Caledonians of European origin cannot live without the indigenous Kanaks and the Kanaks cannot live without the others. They must live together."

He pointed out that 1,500

Europeans possess more than double the land attributed to 25,000 Kanaks and that only 96 of the 2,800 civil servants in the territory were Kanak.

This week is the anniversary of most deadly of last September's Paris bombings — that in the rue de Rennes — and M Mitterrand found himself talking to a young lady whose mother had been killed beside her and had had her own foot blown off. She accused the state of not telling the public the truth about terrorism.

The President had to search for words as he explained that "everyone knew" there were three states behind terrorist activities in France, but that he could go no further because of French hostages being held in Lebanon.

An Aids virus carrier was also given an opportunity to present his ideas to the President, who praised his courage in appearing on television.

As to the question of whether the President will stand again, Christine Okrent insisted charmingly and M Mitterrand, looking fit and relaxed, equally charmingly refused to be drawn.

The gas chambers furore

Le Pen complains about witchhunt

Paris — Flanked by his National Front parliamentary deputies, M Jean-Marie Le Pen read out a long declaration in a basement room of the National Assembly yesterday in which he launched accusations of a witchhunt by the "immigration lobby" in France, who, he claimed, were out to get him (Susan MacDonald writes).

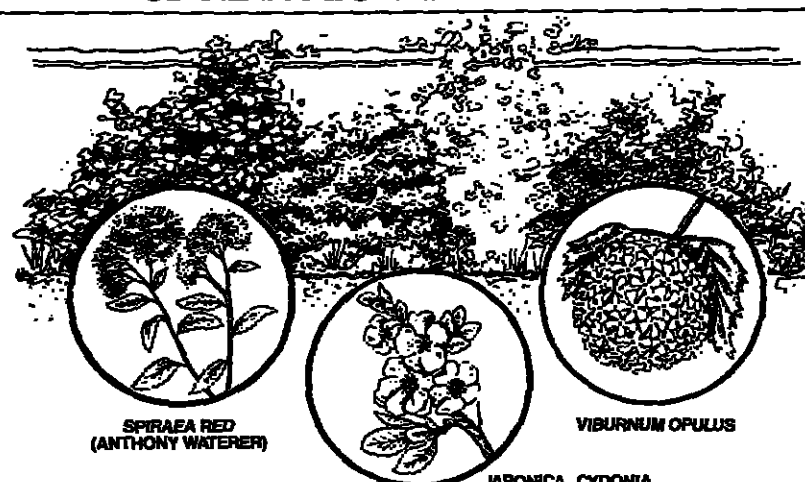
The reason for the statement to the press was to explain his remarks in a radio interview earlier this week when he talked of Nazi gas chambers being a mere detail of the Second World War and cast doubt on their existence.

In describing himself a victim of "intellectual terrorism" in the face of the indignation that his remarks aroused all over France, M Le Pen tried to make amends for what he had said before, while doing his best not to go back completely on his own words.

He acknowledged unequivocally the existence of Nazi concentration camps, while defending his right to call them "a detail". "The concentration camps where millions of Jews, Gypsies, Christians and patriots from all Europe died and the methods used to put them to death constitute a chapter, a part, a detail of the history of the Second World War as is shown in all the general history books on the subject."

Two systems, communism and National Socialism, had created the concentration camps, according to M Le Pen; the second disappeared 42 years ago, while the first continues to produce misery.

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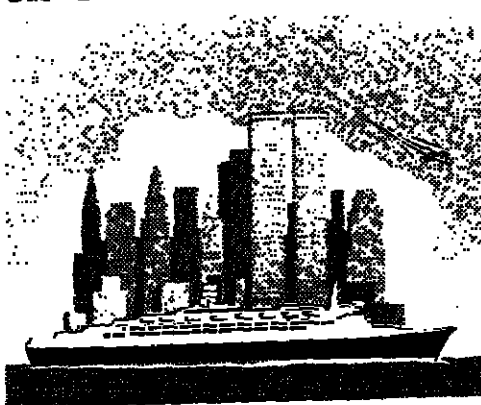
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Soviet call for 'Land Army' volunteers to beat crop crisis

From Christopher Walker, Moscow

People living in towns and cities in the Soviet Union have been urged to get out into the fields and harvest potatoes and vegetables by hand to combat an agricultural crisis.

Emergency measures are being introduced to cope with the problems caused by heavy rains and unseasonably cold weather, which have combined to threaten grain, vegetable and potato crops.

The crisis has been discussed by the Politburo, and the official paper, *Sovetskaya Rossiya*, yesterday took the unusual step of urging Soviet residents of towns and cities to do what they can to help overcome the emergency.

Revealing that only half of the potatoes and vegetables harvested by this time last year had so far been brought in, the paper added in bold type: "Everywhere it must be understood that extraordinary emergency measures are necessary. Nonstop work using all available farm equipment is not enough. It is necessary, essential, to move large masses of people from villages and cities out to harvest many crops (potatoes, vegetable and flax above all) by hand."

The call followed a 10-minute special broadcast at the beginning of Wednesday night's main television news in which Mr Yevgeny Sizenko, the first deputy chairman of Gosagroprom, the umbrella organization which oversees the huge Soviet agriculture industry, described the situation as exceptionally difficult.

Viewers were told that wea-

ther forecasters predicted frost for late this month and that three weeks at most remained to complete the harvest. Mr Sizenko said that the Politburo had called for immediate measures to improve the situation, and he appealed to collective as well as state farmworkers to continue the harvest manually if equipment could not be used in rain-soaked fields.

Izvestia, the official government newspaper, quoted figures from the Central Statistics Committee which showed that grain had been harvested from only 77 per cent of the total sown area of the Soviet Union by September 14, compared with about 93 per cent by the same time last year.

The paper, whose report was the first to draw attention to the gravity of the situation, said the appalling weather conditions were also preventing Soviet farmers from sowing the new winter crop on schedule.

"The situation shaping up for the completion of autumn work in the fields and for preparations for the winter is viewed (by the Politburo) as extremely strained," *Izvestia* said, explaining that although harvesting was nearly complete in the Ukraine, Moldova and the Northern Caucasus, only a quarter of the crop had been threshed in Eastern Siberia, and just over a third in north-western areas of the vast Russian Federation.

"Constant rains have thrown off the rhythm of the

harvest in Northern Siberia and in the Kazakh virgin lands," it added. "But due to old habits (in Kazakhstan) they first began to pile the grain in heaps in other words, using technology worked out for good weather. And now the threshing is botched."

Western embassies are monitoring the situation closely. Their experts say that a poor 1987 harvest would force Moscow to import more grain at a time when its hard currency reserves are badly depleted, because of the drop in world oil prices and the high costs of cleaning up after the Chernobyl nuclear disaster in April last year.

The Kremlin has set a 1987 grain harvest target of 232 million tonnes, significantly higher than last year when Soviet farmers harvested 210 million tonnes in their best result since a record crop of 237.4 million tonnes in 1978. The most recent US Agriculture Department estimate for this year's Soviet harvest was 205 million tonnes, but this may now have to be revised downwards.

Western observers believe that a poor harvest would be a blow to Mr Mikhail Gorbachev's internal prestige since he has set considerable store by improving the Soviet Union's poor food supplies.

Yesterday *Selskaya Zhizn*, the official agricultural paper, reported that resistance to Mr Gorbachev's reforms was particularly strong among managers of collective farms.

SPORTING DIARY

Simon Barnes

Fizz the sizzler

Never mind whether or not Reference Point is the greatest racehorse that ever lived: the real sporting question this year is whether Fizz is the greatest ever. For Fizz was the marvellous victor at the World Ferret Racing Championships, held at The Grange, Northampton, last week. Don't think this was some frivolous nonsense on a par with sticking ferrets down your trousers: this was a serious event, with a £100 prize for the winner. The 50ft drainpipe course had some well-designed kinks and transparent sections every few feet so that spectators could check the contestants' progress. Ferrets, like dogs, come when their names are called, so owners yell for them at the far end of the course. The well-trained ferret always comes; some just curl up and go to sleep in the middle of the course. But not Fizz the fleet, the clear winner.

By a nose

Reference Point's St Leger victory last weekend was trainer Henry Cecil's 147th winner of the season, beating the record of 146 winners set by John Day in 1867. But in point of fact, it will not be the 147th since one of Cecil's cavaliers of winners is almost certain to be disqualified: Quexios won a race after an ointment containing a prohibited substance had been rubbed on to his heel in error. When tests are completed, he will be stripped of his victory. Cecil has publicly accepted as much. However, Cecil is still the new record holder, thanks to a horse that's light years from Reference Point: on Monday a filly called Madam Cyn won a seller — the lowest grade of race in the sport — at Yarmouth of all places.

Well heeled

Some might have thought that the Olympic Games had gone slightly peculiar when they introduced the great and glorious sport of synchronized swimming. But Seoul next year will provide a trial spot for something that almost makes synchronized swimming look sensible: barefoot water skiing. If all goes well, the first barefoot water skiing medals will be fought for in 1992 in Barcelona. The Brits are in with a chance because we have 5,000 barefoot skiers — making us, according to the sport's statisticians, the third-greatest barefoot water skiing nation in the world. We trail behind only the Americans and the Australians, who, as you might have guessed, invented the sport.

Man of iron

A novel question is exercising the minds of American golfers: does a gunman count as a natural hazard? A man with a natty small calibre revolver has staged a series of hold-ups on a golf course at Austin, Texas. He pops out of cover, generally at the 13th hole, and requests the players to throw down their wallets and then get on with their game. Charles Jordan, the parks and recreation director whose problem this is, has asked players to keep an eye open for suspicious characters. Heavy security, he said, would not be effective: "We can't afford to do it. How do you patrol acres?"

Intrepid followers of the tips that come my way from the obsessed brain of my racing snout must have been disappointed that Ashgate Comet did not run last week. But he is down for the Arab race meeting at Kempton today, and still looks a good thing.

Hit for sex

As my summer-long search for extraordinary cricket stories draws to a close, so I get jaded and dulled, until only the most hideously piquant, perverse and peculiar things register. One such comes my way from John Crosby, concerning a match in Luxembourg between British officials at the European Parliament and 11 Brits who happen to live there. The match, played on a football pitch in the Ardennes forest, attracted the casual interest of a number of Luxembourgish, many of them courting couples. At a critical stage of the European Parliament innings, a batsman complained about distracting movement behind the bowler's arm. Yes, one of the courting couples had found the fascinations of cricket short-lived. Play was held up for a full five minutes, after which the umpire was persuaded to intervene. Mr Crosby writes: "The couple's response at being thus approached by a man in a white coat speaking an unintelligible language and being asked to perform elsewhere is not, alas, recorded, but move they did."

Going places

Clapton, pride of the Vauxhall-Opel League second division, have made an offer for Welsh international and Barcelona misfit Mark Hughes, who scored the goal that gave Wales victory over Denmark the other week. After the match, the Welsh manager, the inaptly named Mike England, told the world it was a shame that Barcelona could not give him any first-team football. In stepped Clapton: they at once teleaxed Barcelona guaranteeing Hughes a first-team place at their very own Old Spotted Dog Ground. So far, their brains are not bad a penny.

Owen's merger imprint

by Robin Oakley
— Political Editor —

Amid the clichés about freedom, justice, respect for the individual and apple pie, the Liberal assembly in Harrogate has provided an inkling of what the new merged party will be like: it will be an Owenite party without Dr Owen.

What has worried the SDP separatists is that the Liberals have never been serious about the pursuit of power and that a new party would be likely to seek an accommodation with Labour, would be soft on defence and would fail to recognize how the political world has been re-fashioned by Thatcherism.

But neither in public nor in private did the Harrogate Liberals show any interest in a realignment of the left; there could be no deal with Labour unless it changed out of all recognition.

This is not just because Labour will not contemplate proportional representation but because these people believe that Labour is made unelectable by its lack of "soundness" on defence, its subjugation to union interests and its anti-enterprise ethos. Emboldened by their successes in local government and their share in running council budgets, they want to get on the bigger screen.

There is a sense of impatience at time lost. Liberals want to get on with a merger quickly. Delegate after delegate insisted that there

must be no more talk of aiming merely for the balance of power. It is a remarkable recovery of confidence since June.

What also became clear — reflected in David Steel's speech yesterday — was that the Liberals and their Social Democrat allies believe they have been given an opportunity by the way British Telecom has taken the shine off the privatization programme.

Nobody can teach us any lessons about enterprise and competition, they say. They believe that they can now represent the Tories as the party of short-termism, the party of the quick buck, willing to transfer huge monopolies from public sector to private, and never mind the customer.

The new party now shaping up will oppose "mindless privatization", preferring to keep utilities such as water and electricity in the public sector. But it will be anti-bureaucratic, believing in enterprise and the spur of competition. "Business knows best how to run business," it will say, but with its roots in 19th-century Liberalism, it believes it can make itself the party which looks after the consumer.

The most interesting speech of the week came from Richard Holmes, one of David Steel's closest advisers, who argued that what the party had to produce was not a better collectivism than Labour but a better individualism than the Conservatives.

Common to the SDP's latest set of policy studies for the 1990s (commissioned before Owen's resignation), to a policy document from Alan Beith, deputy leader of the Liberal Party, and to Holmes's speech was a readiness to begin jettisoning incomes policy, especially what Holmes called "gadgets" like the counter-inflation tax. It is Owen's path all right, not that of Roy Jenkins and the Liberals of recent years.

A similar "new realism" has been apparent on defence. Steel and a few around him would not mind at all if a few of the Liberal Party's unilateralists were to be lost overboard as the constitution makers sail the new party into uncharted waters.

Of course, his tougher words on Trident and the assurances given by Gavin Grant, the no-nonsense chairman of the candidates' association, that the Liberals never have been and never will be

a unilateralist party were designed to minimize the number of SDP supporters who feel the need to go off with Owen. But once again there is a willingness to adjust to the world as it is.

For example, Simon Hughes, MP for Bermondsey, on Trident, which the Alliance at the June election was pledged to scrap: "When we come into government, then we start with where we're at". In other words, they would keep it and put it on the table in multilateral disarmament talks.

The clearest sign of what kind of party the Liberals and the Social Democrats are likely to create in Harrogate has been the behaviour of Harrogate of the politicians who know how to feel the Liberal pulse. Hughes, together with the party presidency candidate, Michael Meadowcroft, and the would-be future leader, Paddy Ashdown, have all been delicately tacking across the spectrum. They see now that there is a wider audience to play to. They talk about efficiency as well as Liberal values.

They and the activists who have been so insistent that policy must not get mixed up with the constitution-making in merger talks can feel it in their bones. The centre of gravity of the new party, while still mildly left of centre, will be somewhere to the right of where the Liberals have lately been. That, surely, is Owen's legacy.

Peter Conrad finds a common link between three tragic superstars

Idols doomed to sacrifice

Chris Krage after Andy Warhol



Monroe, Callas and Presley: shackled to their fans even when their talent faded and today still the focus of thriving cults

One Saturday night last month, wandering through the throng of beer drinkers and basking Mozart sopranos near the Karlovi in Munich, I ran into a torch-light procession. Or rather it ran into me. I had to jump aside to make way for a few dozen Teutonic boomer boys brandishing flames and chanting slogans.

They were ordinary enough hooligans, still pimply despite their tattoos, wearing leather jackets in the sticky heat. What, I wondered, could the occasion be? I followed them into a square, and found out: they were acolytes of Elvis, remembering his death ten years ago in a style more suited to Wagnerian vassals than to rockers in mourning.

The ululations, the fire leering on the face of a goatey roccoco church, the hysteria of a contagious grief — it had the atmosphere of a pagan religious observance. This has been a summer of such rites. First the 25th anniversary of Marilyn Monroe's death. Then Presley. This week Maria Callas who, like him, died ten years ago.

Each has its cult, with followers who trade in relics — autographed snaps of Marilyn, pirated tapes of Callas in rehearsal — or who devote themselves to reincarnating their lost leader. At a pub in Tottenham Court Road you can see the loyal latter-day clones of Elvis, their ruddy English faces trying hard for a sensual scowl, their London whine valiantly aping Tennessee drawl.

There is more to link these three than the coincidence of the commemorations this summer. All are tragic case histories: performers who outlived their talent. Our last glimpses of them were sad and unworthy — a vaudeville Elvis at Las Vegas, bleary and bloated, mumbling through songs while exuding a cascade of nervous sweat; Marilyn circling dazedly with vacant eyes round a cooling pool in her final film, just before the studio sacked her; Callas moaning and screaming through two recitals with the bullshy of Stefano at the Royal Festival Hall in 1973.

They ended in demoralization and despair. Presley was zonked

by uppers. Monroe by sleeping pills. Callas, collapsing on her way to the bathroom that night in her empty, opulent Paris apartment, seems to have been snuffed out by apathy.

All had suffered failures of artistry — Elvis and Marilyn forgetting their lines, Callas trying to will a defunct voice back from its grave inside her. And it is precisely this that the cults are about. They are sacred tales of self-destruction, and they celebrate the way in which the great performer consummates a love affair with the public by offering it his or her wrecked, expended self.

The primitivism I felt in that Munich street — or which I remember from Callas's appearances in 1973, with a rabidly affectionate audience reaching up to touch her skirt or clasp her hand — is in the nature of the thing. Anthropology has a name for such frenzies, which endow their object with a mysterious, priestly power too great for any helpless human to bear: they are studies in shamanism. The shaman is the tribe's sacrificial victim, elected to take on the stress and anguish and terror of all, and to cast out these bogies by calling on the gods to ravage him alone.

It may seem a long way from such medicine men to a pop singer, a giggle blonde comedienne and an operatic soprano. But these three, even when alive, were

the protagonists of orgiastic cults. Remember the stories about Elvis's sexual prowess. Monroe, in her best films, had the delicious abandon and honesty of a depraved child. Callas wasn't so explicitly sexual, but opera is an inflammatory art, and her dark, keening voice specialized in a merger of love and hate, passion and death: the lethal infatuation of Bellini's Norma or Puccini's Tosca. All three had volunteered, as the shaman does, to embody our desires; hence our idolatry of them.

The cost was inevitable. Goaded by the public whose fantasies they personify, such performers end in excess and gross self-caricature. It's embarrassing now to see Monroe in the newscasts smirking inanely beside Arthur Miller, her husband at the time, playing in reality the witless baby people wanted to believe she was, or to watch the ageing Elvis, elephantine in his spangles, belly looming over a jewelled belt, his rump shielded by a billowing Superman cape, jiving before an audience whose long-ago youth he symbolized and had been deputed to keep alive.

Callas, too, was driven to play the fury off stage, haranguing process servers and bad-mouthing rivals; as her voice faltered, she was more famous for her cancellations than for her performances.

But this is part of the fatal compact with the audience, like

the shaman's with his tribe. Those we have chosen to enact our dreams must make themselves over to us utterly, resigning tenure of their own existence. The cameras waited for Marilyn as she was bundled out of hospitals and clinics, ashen and confused, no longer beautiful; they seized the final prize of a pin-up as she lay on a slab after her autopsy.

The same cameras greeted Elvis when, granted leave from the army, he returned to Memphis to see his dying mother, and followed him down the hospital corridor to her room. They were also on hand as, babbling crazily, he was sped away from the halls where he had given his last incoherent, harlequin-propped solos. Callas was hounded in the same way throughout her affair with Onassis. The world to which she had mortgaged herself made no distinction between public and private, music drama and soap opera.

She knew, I am sure, what was being done to her. After all, the operas she made her own were about such martyrdoms: Norma the perjured priestess mounting the pyre; Violetta in Verdi's *Traviata* tolerated as a bauble by a society which then hypocritically reviles her; Tosca the famous soprano, tormented by being made to perform.

Introducing an encore in one of those 1973 London concerts, Callas gently blamed the cult for its crucifixion of her. "I must say, even though there's a little more emotion than usual," she said, "and when the public loves me that much, I have to give to it." Nevertheless, she resolved to "try a little more".

We watch such sacrifices with a terrible gratification, and applaud their recklessness. We have ordained these deaths, and the candles — or, in the case of that Munich rally, the torches — which we light annually afterwards burn. I think, less in homage than in guilty expiation.

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Peter Conrad's A Song of Love and Death: The Meaning of Opera will be published by Chatto & Windus in November.

Robert Kilroy-Silk

Distrusting the people

So, Neil Kinnock and Labour's national executive committee have chickened out of giving unequivocal support to the introduction of one member-one vote for the selection of parliamentary candidates. This is an indefensible abdication of leadership and its obligations. There is not one good reason why every party member should not be treated as equal, and Neil Kinnock knows it.

All right, so at least he and the NEC have conceded the principle of extending the franchise. But it's difficult to think of anything that could be more divisive and cumbersome than the T & G-inspired shoddy compromise of an electoral college — with the trade unions in each constituency guaranteed up to 40 per cent of the vote — that is likely to be passed by the block votes at the party conference later this month.

The compromise is necessary, the T & G said, to retain the link between the party and the unions. That is nonsense, and everyone knows it. Under a one man-one vote system the unions would still be affiliated to the party nationally and locally; they could still nominate candidates for local and national elections, send delegates to regional and national conferences, sit on the NEC, wield the block vote at conference, and all the rest. The only substantial change would be that, to cast a vote in a constituency selection contest, a trade unionist would have to be an individual member of the party.

Is that really so onerous? Of course it isn't. There's nothing to stop all 7 million trade unionists joining the Labour Party, and assuming the same financial and organizational obligations and the same rights as everyone else. Indeed, if trade unionists feel so strongly about their links with the party one wonders why they aren't members already. The party needs them. It certainly needs a bigger membership than the derisory 300,000 that it has today. As the GMB's David Warburton said: "Some of my colleagues in the trade union movement should stop belly-aching about so-called erosion of union influence in the party and start boosting the individual party membership."

The anti-democrats certainly can't have it both ways. They cannot, as Benn and Livingstone argue, insist that the right to select parliamentary candidates should be retained by the activists and then plead that all trade unionists — the stay-at-homes, the Liberals, Social Democrats, Tories and Trots — should have a vote.

The practical problems are just as bizarre. What happens, for instance, if the T & G branch responsible for, say, 15 per cent of the electoral college loses members or is closed down following redundancies or a factory closure? Would it still wield the same

number of votes? Would the delegates chosen to cast them be recruited from other constituencies, other parties? What happens if the membership of the branch increases? More to the point, what would be the position in a constituency where the party had 60 members and 60 per cent of the vote if, as a result of a recruitment drive, it got 1,000 members? Would it still have only 60 per cent of the vote compared to the 40 per cent representing 40 members of the trade union?

That is absurd, and a recipe for internal chaos and rancour that only the Labour Party could manufacture for itself. In which case there must, one might assume, be powerful and compelling reasons to risk such a debacle.

There are not. Those advanced so far are easily seen for what they are, crude rationalizations to preserve the power of the zealots of the loonier left. We are told that the activists should be left in control because they know best, they're in touch. What is really meant is that, as in my own former constituency, it is easier to dominate and manipulate small groups than to deceive a mass membership.

And the activists are few in number. As Labour's former chief whip, Michael Cocks, pointed out recently, an average of only 19 party members took part in the reselections of the last parliament. Any decent democrat would be ashamed of such a figure and try to increase the level of participation. Instead, the authors are resorting to the specious argument that widening the franchise would allow the media to influence the result. Presumably, the elite activist corps is immune to the blandishments and provocation of the evil capitalist press, ordinary members not.

The arrogance is breathtaking and offensive, especially coming as it does from the likes of Benn who is always telling us to "trust the people". It's the same intellectual paternalism that was deployed by the anti-democrats when resisting working-class emancipation and enfranchisement. It's strange to hear it now from its middle-class leaders.

Ken Livingstone is equally condescending when he says we could have democracy because it could lead to "intimidation and people knocking on doors late at night." By whom, one wonders? Does he know such people? Are they Labour Party members? Should they be? Leaving that aside, does the Labour Party really want to say that while the electorate can cope with all this and can be trusted to elect a government, its own members cannot even be allowed to choose parliamentary candidates? It's time to lead, Neil.

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The author was a Labour Merseyside MP, 1974-86.

Peter Brimelow

Have a nice today...

New York. Politicians in democracies, by a process of natural selection, have evolved into something rather like the shrew. Their sensitive noses are constantly sniffing out the most immediately expedient course, their almost complete blindness actually protects them from fear, and their brute appetite makes them virtually unstoppable.

But you can't expect them to think about the long view. And that goes for the fleas, ticks, journalists and other hangers-on who live off them.

In America, the Reagan presidency has been accompanied by a continuous caterwauling from displaced Democrats predicting economic catastrophe — what Churchill called a constellation of inverted Micawbers waiting for something to turn down. Currently attracting comment: last week's cover story ("Whatever happened to America's smile?") in the *Economist*, which effectively has resident alien status here, and an extract in *Atlantic Monthly* from a new book, *The Rise and Fall of Great Powers*, by Yale professor Paul Kennedy, an historian of the Royal Navy.

The *Economist* article is a glib mood piece, not intended to be taken seriously. A curiosity is its apparent assumption that higher public spending, on education and anti-poverty programmes, would somehow produce improvements. In fact the US has increased spending on these areas for 40 years without any real improvements. So this assumption is no longer automatic outside Washington's Democratic professional spending community.

A common point in both the *Economist* and Kennedy arguments is that in 1945 the US accounted for 40 per cent of the gross world product; now it has fallen to perhaps 25 per cent. Both analyses agree that the higher figure was a temporary freak, a relative decline was inevitable as other countries recovered from the war. The long-term, fatalistic conclusion: this is something America must learn to live with.

This outlook, the sort of thing British politicians have complacently told themselves while presiding over generations of national decline, may be too simple. Professor Kennedy himself suggests one reason. The US, unlike Britain, has a continental-sized

national territory, a geopolitical base amounting to 6 per cent of the land area of the globe. And rich land too. Kennedy estimates that, whatever happens, it should guarantee the US "some 16 or 18 per cent of the world's wealth and power." In a fragmented world, that could well be what Wall Street calls a control bloc.

I think this is good for Britain (guaranteed only some "3 to 4 per cent" of the world's wealth and power). At the very least, it means that English will remain a world language, rather than melting into regional usage like French or German. But it still doesn't excuse the British political class. After all, Japan has only half again as much land as Britain, and about twice the population. And by some counts it has just surpassed the Soviet Union's gross national product, to become the second economic power in the world.

Again, while it's probably realistic to assume that a democratic ship of state like America can do little other than drift along while the crew carouse below decks, there are alternatives. Most obviously, the Americans could do something about their relationship with Canada. This comprises 6 per cent of the globe's land area, it is already well integrated economically with the US and its people, generally, are culturally Americans, however much their politicians deny it in between junkets to New York and winter holidays in Florida.

As someone who has just published a book on Canada, I can say with authority that Americans literally never think about the subject. My fellow Saturday columnist Michael Kinsley, editor of the *New Republic* magazine, has even made a professional specialty of jeers on the point, running a "Most Boring Headline Competition" won by "Worthwhile Canadian Initiative." Currently, Ottawa and Washington are holding talks on establishing bilateral free trade. But the prospects don't seem encouraging.

In the last century, Seelye said the British acquired world mastery in a fit of absence of mind; certainly they let it slip away in an absence of thought. The Americans have emulated them so far in this century. It will be interesting to see if this English-speaking syndrome continues.

The author is a senior editor of *Forbes* Magazine.

Jobs: can King win over America?

Tom King, the Northern Ireland Secretary, begins an extensive tour of the United States today hoping to bury the province's image as Britain's South Africa, which Irish-American propaganda busily promotes.

Citing the code of conduct published earlier this week, he will insist that the government is committed to equality of job opportunity for Protestants and Roman Catholics alike.

Already, companies which do not operate fair employment practices can be denied government contracts, grants and loans. The new code sets a deadline for employers to introduce equal opportunity procedures.

They will have to monitor the religious affiliation of employees and job applicants and remedy imbalances between the two communities. Additionally, companies wishing to obtain public contracts must now prohibit the display of flags, emblems and graffiti in places where they could give offence.

This initiative has been endorsed by Mrs Thatcher personally. Her support will be particularly valuable when King confronts US interest groups which believe the government has not tackled religious discrimination in the province seriously enough.

During his visit, he will point to the guide as more effective way of eliminating job discrimination than the MacBride principles which have been adopted by five state and four city legislatures. King fears that these principles, however well meaning, will compel American firms investing in Northern Ireland to adopt a policy of positive discrimination in favour of the Catholics, who, in an area of generally high unemployment, are twice as likely as Protestants to be out of work.

He will be particularly anxious to convince influential Irish-American politicians such as Senator Edward Kennedy that the government's even-handed approach is correct.

King's itinerary will take him to companies such as Dupont in Delaware, and Ford in Detroit, which have been embroiled in the MacBride battle. His visit to Chicago will be timely as the Illinois state legislature is about to decide for or against the MacBride principles.

Support for King was forthcoming last week from the US ambassador to Britain, Charles Price. Visiting Belfast, he dismissed the MacBride principles as "well-intentioned but entirely counterproductive". His remark provoked an angry reaction from Dublin. The Irish foreign minister, Brian Lenihan, complained that Price was taking sides — Charles Haughey, the Irish prime minister, having described the MacBride principles as "totally acceptable". However, Lenihan has assured King that the Irish government would acknowledge that the MacBride principles had been superseded if the British government gave legislative effect to the policy guidelines.

It is not just the vocal Irish-American lobby which takes an interest in this issue. Increasingly, Washington is involved. The Reagan administration and Congress have pledged to provide \$120 million over three years in support of the Anglo-Irish Agreement and have a direct interest in how the money is spent.

Lenihan flew to the US on Thursday. With King following close behind, the battle is on to persuade the Washington political establishment, state legislatures and the influential Irish-American lobby that the era of "jobs apartheid" in Northern Ireland is over.

On balance, King faces less scepticism and friction from Dublin than from the emigrant Irish. At the end of the day, the situation in Northern Ireland can be improved only if there are more jobs available for distribution between the unemployed in the two communities.

John Cooney



1 Pennington Street, London, E1 9XN Telephone: 01-481-4100

THE BEGINNING OF WHAT?

The superpowers' agreement to eliminate (in principle if not yet in practice) their intermediate nuclear forces (INF) forceshadows the first major arms control treaty for eight years and the most ambitious since the nuclear age began. A whole category of weapons should be swept from the map after the East-West summit now planned for the autumn. It may not be the end of an era, but it could just be the beginning of one — or "the beginning of the beginning" as Sir Geoffrey Howe has put it.

On the face of it, the treaty looks like a bargain for the West. For one thing, it removes the SS-20 — the three-warhead missile whose ability to reach almost anywhere in Europe from Soviet soil has concentrated minds in Brussels for a decade. With other missiles included, the Soviet Union will have to scrap more than 1,500 warheads under the "double zero" option — against only 400 or so in the West.

The Soviet Union has for many years invested in INF missiles in the European theatre while, apart from the 72 old Pershing-1As in West Germany, Nato's have moved into position during only the last four years. In that sense it is Moscow which is paying the higher price.

There is another argument, however, which explains why Western Europeans still view the impending treaty very sceptically. Nato's longer-range INF, the cruise missiles and Pershing-2s, were installed in Western Europe not simply to counter the SS-20 and others like it. They were originally introduced to do two things: to forge a link in Nato's chain of military responses, between the battlefield nuclear weapons and the strategic intercontinental missiles like the United States Minuteman and Poseidon (or, for that matter, Britain's Polaris); and secondly, to strengthen the coupling between the Old World and the New.

The United States might just be willing to risk launching its strategic missiles for the sake of Western Europe, at a time when it held a balance of advantage over the Soviet Union. But would it do so in an age of nuclear parity, when it might need all the missiles it could find to protect its own territory in the event of a Soviet strike? The presence of a new generation of American cruise and Pershing-2 INF in

Europe, was a visible guarantee to the Old World that Washington was still committed to its protection, come what may.

A withdrawal of nuclear weapons throws more emphasis on Europe's conventional defences. The Soviet Union retains a significant conventional advantage over the West. It can more easily reinforce its front line divisions overland from Russia. It is not the Western but the Eastern bloc which stands to gain most from a treaty of this kind.

Desirable though it may be to reduce the nuclear arsenals overall, it would have been more sensible to retain 100 INF missiles on each side. If its defences are inferior, the West's capacity to deter any aggression should be unquestionable. General Bernard Rogers, Nato's long-standing former Supreme Allied Commander in Europe, was so outspoken in his opposition to "zero-zero" that he was forcibly retired by the White House in the summer. But his successor, General John Galvin, made a series of comments last week, which sounded as if he had picked up his predecessor's script. Even the civilian Lord Carrington, Nato's Secretary-General, has expressed fears about Allied vulnerability — though stopping short of open criticism of the deal. There are those on both sides of the Atlantic who say that if the "double zero" encourages Western Europe to become more self-reliant in defence, this will not be before time. There have certainly been recent echoes of a familiar theme in Washington — where the image persists of an indolent Europe, all too willing to let the United States provide for its defence and pick up the bill.

Whatever the Soviet Union hopes for in the long term — such as the final "decoupling" of the United States and Western Europe — its immediate concern is to reduce the burden of its defence bill — now more than 15 per cent of its GNP. So one hopes that an INF accord will truly be the beginning of a series of arms treaties which might reduce nuclear and conventional arsenals in the interests, not to the detriment, of Allied security. Until then, Lord Carrington, General Galvin and the rest are right to sound a warning. If this is a time for celebration, it is also one for watchfulness and care.

MR SCARGILL CONTINUES

And so, only about two years after the huge defeat of the last one, the National Union of Mineworkers' next industrial action will start from tomorrow midnight. But it is an overtime ban rather than a strike. And it is a limited overtime ban rather than a full one. This time Mr Scargill has settled for a class skirmish rather than a class war.

The ban will be limited to "all producing coal faces and working developments" — in layman's terms, to the places down the pit where the coal is actually cut from the coalface. On the face of it, that sounds like the most important part of the industry. So it is. But only one per cent of coal is extracted by overtime working. The more important overtime is worked by safety and maintenance men, particularly on Saturdays. Mr Scargill failed to persuade a majority of the NUM executive to ban that.

Coal stocks are high. One third of British coal is produced by the rival Union of Democratic Mineworkers. And what of the mood of the "tightly knit mining communities?" — the description so romantically used by sympathisers with the 1984-85 strike about villages which had been turned by the militants into centres of intimidation and nastiness? The evidence suggests that the wives, in particular, will not tolerate another hopeless struggle. And this one is not even about winning higher pay.

It is a marginal struggle about the alleged indignity being heaped on proud miners by a new British Coal disciplinary code. This code, such is the nature of any vast and widely-dispersed industry run by local managers who above all desire a quiet life, will be used sparingly. The UDM speaks the unspoken thoughts of most in the NUM. It does not much care about the code. It knows it will affect hardly anyone save a few professional militants who are interested in things other than earning good wages out of producing coal.

But Mr Scargill has been able to call on a sufficient number of old loyalties and old hatreds — particularly in Yorkshire. He has just about been able to get his overtime ban. Why does he persist — like the more tactically blind First

World War generals to whom he has so often been compared — in throwing his troops into such hopeless offensives?

Perhaps that question can only be done justice by a psychiatric answer. Failing that, Mr Scargill's behaviour can be explained either by his having some grand strategic design or by a sheer primitive Marxist love of struggle for its own sake — or both.

The struggle theory would form an important part of the possible explanation. Asked in 1985 whether he had been defeated, he demanded in turn: how can you describe as a defeat a strike which managed to keep going for a year? Like the theoreticians favoured by certain extreme mass movements on the Continent earlier in this century — Soré, say, who managed to inspire both Marxists and Fascists — he sometimes gives the impression that he thinks action is its own justification. "The Struggle Continues" — the more recent slogan of assorted continental Marxists — is one of the favourites of Mr Scargill's more ideological supporters.

And the grand strategic design? Mr Scargill knows that miners' industrial action will only ever be effective again if it has the support of the men who have gone over to the UDM. His chances of winning them back to his union — and back to its strikes and overtime bans — are slim. Industrial action was what they joined the UDM to avoid. But he may harbour hopes that he can win concessions from British Coal which management would not grant to the non-militant UDM.

This would weaken and compromise the rival union. So British Coal has a moral duty never to let down the UDM by allowing NUM militancy to pay. Many of the UDM's members are brave men who in 1985-86 defied Mr Scargill's most vicious followers. This time, Mr Scargill's most vicious (Yorkshire apart) is making sure that renewed hostilities take a strictly limited form. But those who heed him will be out of pocket — and, later perhaps, out of work. They should be allowed to learn that this is all they can expect from Mr Scargill's offer of continuing struggle.

FOURTH LEADER

The increasing popularity of the Eurocheque as an international means of payment has inevitably brought in its train a growing incidence of forgery. Those responsible for the Eurocheque, that is, not the forgers, have therefore re-designed both the cheques and the guarantee-card which accompanies them, incorporating a design which will make them harder to counterfeit; it seems that the decision-making body had finally to choose between a portrait of Julius Caesar and one of Beethoven. They chose Beethoven, and all those who put the qualities of artistic genius above those of the military kind will be pleased. At least, they will be pleased until they learn the reason why Ludwig was preferred to Julius. The Roman general was bald; ample locks are harder to copy than a shiny pate; therefore...

This opens new vistas. But if hairiness is the criterion, they could do a lot better than Beethoven. What about Charles the Second? Possibly it was felt that an English monarch would not be sufficiently multi-European to cover all the nations participating in the Eurocheque scheme, which would also knock out Louis Quatorze. (Mind you, his crowning glory was a wig.) But even if we stick to musicians we can do better than Beethoven;

wasn't Paganini known for his flowing tresses, for instance? And there was a *diva* some years ago with hair so long that when she undid it and let it cascade down her back, it reached the floor. That would baffle the most ingenious and expert forger, would it not?

Alternatively, they could seek a general hairier than Caesar, Marlborough, for instance, always looked as though he hadn't been near the barber for months. And if the choice can be extended beyond both the aesthetic and the martial arts, and for that matter from hair to beards, what about Karl Marx? Or Bernard Shaw? Or Tolstoy? Or all those men who swore they would never have a haircut or shave until Accrington Stanley won the F.A. Cup?

The problem could be solved another way, of course; we could all use traveller's cheques, letters of credit and bags of gold. But it is no good dreaming that the clock can be put back; a hairy composer on the Eurocheque there must be. On the other hand, it is a pity to exclude the noblest Roman altogether. Perhaps a compromise can be reached; let each Eurocheque bear a picture of Beethoven, looking puzzled, with his hand cupped to his ear, and another of Julius Caesar, his face contorted with the effort, bellowing "Get your 'air cut, you 'orrible little man!"

Police support for male self-defence

From Chief Superintendent Michael Farbrother
Sir, Mr John Knight's comments and suggestions (September 9) concerning the need for fresh legislation to deal with the problem of knife attacks and the carrying of knives will be endorsed by both the public and the police.

It would be wrong, however, to see any new legislation as a panacea; when it is introduced youngsters will not stop carrying knives overnight. Education and peer pressure must play important roles if the cult of knife-carrying is to diminish.

Feedback, as a result of the educational campaign that I have been co-ordinating in Lambeth, from police officers, youth leaders and young people themselves indicates that, far from being a criminal sub-culture, many of the latter are, in fact, decent youngsters genuinely afraid of attack and carrying knives as means of protection.

In an effort to counter this fear, and as an experiment, my officers will be introducing locally-based self-defence and street awareness courses, with the emphasis on defence and how to avoid confrontations.

'Slash-and-burn' that kills research

From Professor P. B. Fellgett, FRS
Last night I was privileged to attend the meeting of the Foundation for Science and Technology on "Space technology: the value to the community", referred to by your Science Editor today (September 10). I was moved to protest that, although of course more resources should be made available for British participation in "space", to provide these in present circumstances is like paying for a painting of a tiger a sum which if devoted to conservation would save the entire species.

Since 1970 successive governments have collectively brought about the virtual destruction of our universities. Without universities we become, on a time-scale of two or three decades, culturally, scientifically and technologically a third-world country, and will not be participating in "space" or any other front-line endeavour.

The present Government has made the mistake of seeing research in isolation instead of as an integral part of the knowledge-base of the country, and its

attitude seems to be to smother a cash-crop from existing knowledge in a manner analogous to slash-and-burn agriculture.

To make matters worse, it tries to make quick profits by digging up particularly vigorous plants. As Dr David Caplin (also reported today) rightly protests, even supposed conductivity, the subject supposed to be favoured in this way, suffers from such uprooting, while the whole of the rest of science becomes even more starved.

Are your readers proud to belong to a country in which a person as distinguished as Professor Heinz Wolff can obtain money needed for research by playing the fool on television but does not receive it because Britain is civilised and far-sighted enough to value knowledge for its own sake? Yours faithfully, PETER FELLGETT, University of Reading, Department of Cybernetics, 3 Earley Gate, Whiteknights, Reading, Berkshire, September 10.

Dewsbury dispute

From Mr David Ginsburg
Sir, May I, having represented Dewsbury for nearly a quarter of a century — first as a Labour MP, later for the SDP — comment on the present crisis over Headfield and Overthorpe schools?

Dewsbury people are fair-minded and tolerant. They have accepted in their midst one of the largest Asian communities in Britain and there has been little of the tension and disorder which has afflicted other areas, but I foresee that the present dispute will be blown up out of all proportion unless the local authority softens its stance. Extremist groups from the left and right outside Dewsbury are already fishing in these troubled waters and threaten years of painstaking work for community relations.

For the local authority to attempt to force children into one school as opposed to another preferred by their parents is self-defeating and morally wrong, even if technically the authority is within its rights. If there has been bad planning over numbers and if the appeals procedure seems to have been defective the policy is doubly misguided.

It is agreed that at present Overthorpe has room to take the 25 children. It is said, though, that there will be a problem in, say, two years time, when numbers at Overthorpe grow. But by then the legal position will have changed and Parliament, having estab-

Surgery on children

From Mr Barry M. Jones and Mr M. D. Poole
Sir, We are concerned that recent media comment following the tragic death of a patient after reconstructive facial surgery (report, September 10) may cause distress to children with similar deformities and to their parents.

An impression is given that cranio-maxillo-facial operations are rare, carry an unreasonable risk and are only done for "cosmetic" reasons. In fact, the incidence of serious complications is extremely low.

While appearance may often be a sufficient justification for opera-

tion, many deformities cause functional problems with eating, breathing and exposure of the eyes, which may lead to blindness. Some children develop an increased pressure around the brain which, if not treated, is associated with poor intellectual development.

Such complex deformities are cared for by a team of specialists in craniofacial centres, a number of which exist in the UK. Yours faithfully, BARRY JONES, M. D. POOLE (Oxford Craniofacial Unit, Radcliffe Infirmary), Centre for Craniofacial Anomalies, The Hospital for Sick Children, Great Ormond Street, WC1, September 16.

Water music

From Mrs E. M. Tranter
Sir, As the mother of the school friend to whom Mr James Lancelot refers (September 10), may I add a rider to his letter. The bellows of the small but very fine two-manual Harrison organ in the gallery of the church of St Mary the Virgin, Denby, was operated by a hydraulic pump.

More important than baths at the vicarage in reducing the mains water pressure were the coolers in the milking parlours of the village farms; one hoped for an early start to milking on Sundays! Yours faithfully, MARGERY TRANTER, Salfield, Trent Lane, Weston on Trent, Derbyshire.

From Mr R. A. Forrester
Sir, I have followed with interest the correspondence on blowing church organs by water power.

Other methods of blowing organs were, of course, also used in the 19th century, including the use of hot air. The rider hot-air engine is well documented in its use for blowing a church organ in Gloucestershire. It was totally silent and burned garden rubbish with which the verger stoked the furnace prior to morning service.

Many interesting applications of 19th-century technology have, of course, now lapsed into obscurity, including the Chinese sailing wheelbarrow and, for that matter, the atmospheric railway. We do, however, in South Devon, remember and reactivate many of these now forgotten ideas, and if any reader should want more information I would be happy to dig into my records. Yours faithfully, R. A. FORRESTER, Director, The Brunel Atmospheric Railway, Brunel House, The Strand, Starcross, Devon.

War heroes the nation forgot

From Mr John Fairley
Sir, Once more we have been celebrating Battle of Britain week, and once more we pay silent tribute to those of "the Few" to whom so much is owed. It may, however, come as a surprise to your readers to learn that a small, yet significant number of those men of courage who gave all that they had to give are scarcely remembered at all.

Logically, the battle is regarded as having begun with the first German attack on July 10, 1940. However, by the choice of mid-night on October 31 as the official date and time of the end of the battle, no such comparable logic was applied, for the daylight raids on Britain continued, not only throughout the following day, but up to and including November 28.

We thus have 28 November days which were not officially to be regarded as belonging to the Battle of Britain. The effect of this was that when the Roll of Honour was subsequently compiled, five British pilots who fought and died during those November days were not included.

What makes the situation even more bizarre is that one of five, Squadron Leader Archie McKellar, DSO, DFC and Bar, who commanded 605 (County of Warwick) Squadron has, since then, been rated by Len Deighton

Overtime in the pits

From Mr I. D. Davies
Sir, According to a news item of today's date (September 15) the banning of overtime in the coal mines could cause a 20 per cent drop in production and render certain pits unprofitable.

This suggests that the industry is under-manned. If this is so, the reason presumably is either that the employers are over-working the men; or that the unions insist on their present arrangement because overtime is a profitable "perk", and are unwilling that extra men be taken on.

Or is this a simplistic view? As the saying goes, "I think we should be told". I remain, Sir, yours, etc, IOLO DAVIES, Flat 2, 1 Park Street, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, September 15.

Right to roam

From Miss Susan Bell
Sir, What a pity that the public access debate always seems to ignore the obvious. The recreational needs of modern man are not the same as those of our ancestors who created the network of paths through constant use as they went about their everyday business.

Modification to that network should safeguard the legitimate interests of farmer and landowner but at the same time create a system adapted to present-day circumstances and public requirements.

Mr Somerset (September 17) seems to harbour a number of misapprehensions about the objectives of set-aside proposals, but he is right in saying that there is potential for the public's love of the countryside to bring real economic benefits to it and to those who manage it. Let this mutual gain be achieved through the co-operation of interested parties, not through the imposition of fresh legal sanctions by one party or another on the irresponsible "opening up" of farmland to make a political point.

Yours faithfully, SUSAN BELL, Land Use Adviser, Country Landowners Association, 16 Belgrave Square, SW1.

Terminology

From the Headmaster of Worksp College
Sir, The way that some schools announce the beginning of term (letter, September 16) suggests that it should be "Advert" term. Yours sincerely, HUGH MONRO, Headmaster, Worksp College, Worksp, Nottinghamshire, September 16.

Crystal clear

From Major P. J. Davison
Sir, The difference between "slowing down" and "slowing up", described in Robert Middleton's letter of September 16, is probably related to the lumberjack's habit of firstly chopping trees down before chopping them up. I notice that hooligans also tear things up, once they have torn them down. Yours faithfully, PADDY DAVISON, 1 King's Court, W6.

From Mr Robert Vincent
Sir, Mr Middleton may be interested to learn that, when driving, I "slow up" when I deem it necessary. My wife tells me when to "slow down". Yours faithfully, ROBERT VINCENT, Dilly House, Wildhern, Andover, Hampshire.

From Mr Van Milne
Sir, I remember asking a French student of English if she would "move along" one of those amphi-theatrical lecture-room benches. She complied with the words "Move up, move down, move along, it's all the same". Then she added, "But if you say 'move over', then I know I am in bed!" Yours faithfully, VAN MILNE, 41 Park View, Hatch End, Middlesex.

(Fighter: the True Story of the Battle of Britain, Cape, 1977, p.279) as the highest "scoring" British fighter pilot of the battle. Yet few people have ever heard of him.

One accepts that in all such situations a line has to be drawn. What matters is where, and in this example, the choice of midnight on October 31, 1940, was not simply a historiographical absurdity, but also one which, for almost half a century, has left five of our distinguished war dead unrecognised and unknown. For them, the phrase "Lest we forget" has never had quite the meaning which it should have had.

I would suggest that it is not too late to remedy this injustice. Let it be done now, by the simple inclusion in Westminster Abbey's Roll of Honour of one more page bearing their names. They were, if I am correctly informed, Flight Lieutenant J. C. Dundas, Squadron Leader Archie McKellar, Flight Lieutenant W. H. Nelson, Pilot Officer A. R. Watson and Pilot Officer A. N. C. Weir.

Yours faithfully, JOHN FAIRLEY, 12 Birkhall Drive, Bearsden, Glasgow, September 16.

ON THIS DAY

SEPTEMBER 19 1811

During the Peninsular War (1808-14) the Spanish rose against their French invaders. The activities of the guerrillas, aided and supplied by Wellington, forced Napoleon to keep thousands of troops in Spain, to the detriment of his campaign in central Europe.

SPANISH PAPERS.

(FROM THE CONCISSO.)

GUERRILLA PARTIES.

It is only at a time when, though the majority of the nation is animated with the most noble and heroic sentiments, the disgraceful envy, the barbarous prejudice, and the vile intrigues of some unworthy Spaniards do no less mischief to unhappy Spain than the bayonets of her enemies; — it is only at such a time, we repeat, that it could be considered as in any degree necessary to enforce so manifest a truth as the advantage and the glory which result to Spain from the conservation of the parties of patriots.

But the indignation which we feel at seeing these heroes, the glory of Spain, industriously attacked, and their merit underrated, prevents us from remaining silent. What would Spain have been, had it not been for the patriotic parties? What nation in the world ever presented a spectacle comparable to the war, which daily, and through the whole Peninsula, the Spanish patriots wage against those hosts of the Tyrant, which are the terror of all other nations? Who feeds the fire of our holy insurrection?...

It is undeniable, we confess, that with parties alone we can never conquer: to triumph over armies, armies are necessary; their organization should be the grand object; but it is equally certain, that, in the state in which the nation has been since the commencement of the contest, and still more, in its present condition, we shall as little triumph with armies alone. For let us not deceive ourselves: where is the probability that an army ill-organized (for both time and the necessary means are wanting for that purpose); an army raw when compared with the enemy, who has been twenty years engaged in constant war; an army so deficient in cavalry, in which the enemy is so powerful; an army, in line, whose officers are unequal to those of the enemy, from the subaltern to the General in Chief (for it is necessary to confess it, — we do not know that man among us who knows how to conduct a body of 40, 50, or 60,000 men, and still less one who, with proper intelligence, can direct the three branches of infantry, cavalry, and artillery); that an army, then, of this composition, can triumph over the enemy solely because it is an army? The thing is destitute of probability. But the reverse is the case when guerrillas come in aid of the army. The former, by intercepting the convoys, cut off the subsistence and correspondence of the enemy; diminishing the number of his troops, not only in proportion to the number of men whom they kill or take in every encounter, but those whom they oblige him to employ in the escort of convoys and couriers, and on the military roads which he finds it necessary to maintain by a number of troops; our force is thus indirectly increased. And what is all this but facilitating to our armies an ultimate triumph, which, in any other way, if not impossible, would at least be doubtful. Let us adopt, then, with eagerness, all proper measures for the organization and completion of the guerrillas, which wage upon the enemy a species of warfare more destructive and appalling than any they have ever known: but let him be regarded with suspicion, or, to speak without circumlocution, as an enemy to his country, who is an enemy to those parties which are its ornament and defence.



COURT AND SOCIAL

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
September 18: The Duke and Duchess of York left Heathrow Airport, London this morning to visit the United States of America.

During the visit, His Royal Highness, accompanied by Her Royal Highness, Patron of the Tate Gallery Foundation, will attend a Ball at White Birch Farm, Greenwich, Connecticut.

Miss Helen Hughes and Lieutenant-Colonel Sean O'Dwyer are in attendance.

The Princess Royal, attended by Mrs Charles Ritchie, arrived at Royal Air Force Lyneham this evening in an aircraft of the Queen's Flight from Cyprus.

KENSINGTON PALACE
September 18: The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon today visited Cumbria and was received on arrival at Carlisle Airport by Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant, Sir Charles Graham, Bt.

Her Royal Highness, as President of the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, opened The Beatrice Laing Centre, the Society's Child Protection Team's Unit in Chatsworth Square, Carlisle.

The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon later opened the Dalton and District Leisure Centre, Dalton in Furness.

Her Royal Highness, who travelled in an aircraft of the Queen's Flight, was attended by Mrs Jane Stevens.

Royal engagements

TODAY: The Princess Royal will arrive at Southampton Dock at 7.15 to attend a dinner on board SS *Canberra* to commemorate the fifth anniversary of *Canberra*'s return to commercial service after the Falklands Campaign.

The Duke and Duchess of York will attend a luncheon and polo match at Conyers Farm, North Street, Greenwich, Connecticut, United States, in aid of the World Wildlife Fund and the Friends of the Massi Mara Project for the preservation of wildlife of the Massi Mara Game Reserve in Kenya. Later, the Duchess of York, Patron of the Tate Gallery Foundation, accompanied by the Duke of York, will attend a ball at White Birch Farm, Greenwich, in aid of the American Friends of the Tate Gallery Foundation and the Tate Gallery Foundation.

TOMORROW: The Princess of Wales will attend the Festival of National Parks in Chatsworth Park, Derbyshire, at 1.45.

National Association of Boys' Clubs

The Duke of Gloucester has been re-elected President of the National Association of Boys' Clubs for the ensuing year. Earl Spencer and the Duke of Marlborough are the deputy presidents.

Service luncheon

2nd King Edward VII's Own Gurkhas
General Sir John Chapple, Colonel of the 2nd King Edward VII's Own Gurkhas, presided at the Delhi luncheon of the Sirmoor Club held yesterday at the Cavalry and Guards Club.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr R.A. Barton and Miss C.H. Edwards
The engagement is announced between Robert Andrew, elder son of Mr and Mrs Cyril Barton, of Thorne, Yorkshire, and Catherine Henrietta, elder daughter of Mr Geoffrey Edwards, of Wick, Avon, and the late Pauline Edwards, of Porlock, Somerset.

Mr N.G. Coombs and Miss J.E. Hardman
The engagement is announced between Nicholas, son of Mr and Mrs P.D. Coombs, of North Rauceby, Lincolnshire, and Elizabeth, daughter of Mr and Mrs R.I. Hardman, of Hest Bank, Lancashire.

Mr M.J. Ellis and Miss C.P. Page
The engagement is announced between Martin, elder son of the late Mr John Ellis and of Mrs Jane Ellis, of Stroud, Gloucestershire, and Claire, only daughter of Mr and Mrs John Page, of Sneyd Park, Bristol.

Mr M.J. Harrison and Miss K.L. Turner
The engagement is announced between Julian, elder son of Mr and Mrs G.M.A. Harrison, of Sheffield, and Karen, daughter of Mr and Mrs J. Turner, of Kilburn, London.

Mr S.P.H. Johnson and Miss N.A. Newman
The engagement is announced between Stephen, younger son of Mr and Mrs Edward Johnson, of Maughold, Isle of Man, formerly of Fulsione, Huddersfield, and Nancy, daughter of Mr and Mrs John Norton, of Deerfield, Illinois.

Mr T. Nicholson and Miss A. Sijow
The engagement is announced between Tim Nicholson and Adrienne Sijow, of Hoogheide, Holland.

Mr N.S. Oram and Miss J.E.R. Lyon
The engagement is announced between Nigel, son of Mr and Mrs D.S. Oram, of Brookmans Park, Hertfordshire, and Jane, only daughter of Major T.R.S. Lyon, CBE, and Mrs Lyon, of Bedford End, Epsom, North-Hants.

Mr M.C.O. Parker and Miss S.L. Hamilton
The engagement is announced between Michael, elder son of Mr and Mrs Gerard Parker, of Camforth, Lancashire, and Sara, elder daughter of Dr and Mrs Gordon Hamilton, of Lancaster.

Mr C.R. Pollok and Miss H.S. Savers
The engagement is announced between Robert, son of Mrs A.B. Pollok and the late Mr R. Pollok, of Beaconsfield, Buckinghamshire, and Honor, elder daughter of Mr C.T. Savers, of Dublin, and Mrs M. Savers, of Norwich, Norfolk.

Mr E.C. Sutton and Mrs M.H. Elliot
The marriage will take place quietly on December 20, between Eric Sutton, of Dr and Mrs P. Sutton, of Farm, Plaxton, and Hope Elliot, of Boundary Cottage, Gillingham, widow of Mr Geoffrey Elliot.

Mr A.J. Tate and Miss C.L. White
The engagement is announced between Andrew John, son of Mr and Mrs D.H. Tate, of East Boldon, Tyne and Wear, and Caroline Louise, daughter of Dr and Mrs R.G. White, of Epsom, Surrey.

Mr D.J. Taylor and Mrs S. Palmer
The engagement is announced between Daniel, son of the late Mr N. Taylor and of Mrs R. Taylor, of Palm de Ma, and Samantha, daughter of Mr and Mrs P.E. Palmer, of Sirey, Sutton Coldfield.

Mr J.A. Wier and Miss V.M. Stammers
The engagement is announced between John, son of Mr and Mrs A.J. Wier, of Wallington, Surrey, and Vicky, daughter of Mr and Mrs J.R. Stammers, of Reigate, Surrey.

Mr S.H.P. Hay and Mrs V. Laing
A service of blessing was held yesterday at Christ Church, Chelsea, after the marriage of Mr Simon Hay, youngest son of the late Sir Philip and Lady Laing, to Mrs Tony Laing, daughter of Mr and Mrs Peter Lovatt, of Shropshire. The Rev Simon Acland and Canon Lawrence Skipper officiated. The bride was attended by Natasha and Gemma Laing.

A reception was held at The Duke of York's Barracks and the honeymoon will be spent abroad.

Mr J.L. Duckworth and Miss C.J. Hill
The marriage took place on Sunday, September 12, at St

The Bishop of London on how the West has lost its soul

There is a widespread disquiet about the effect of Western civilization.

The encouragement of false expectations which cannot be met; the adoption of methods of government which destroy the traditional ways of rule by consensus patiently acquired by long deliberation; the breakdown of family life by the use of migrant labour; the encouragement of false belief that man can solve all his problems by material prosperity and without undue delay. These are but some of the difficulties which have been created by the invasion of the world by the West.

I believe that many of these problems have arisen because the West has lost its soul. I believe that this has happened because it has rejected the one essential belief which marked it for centuries, namely that man, by his very nature, has to

● The West has rejected the one essential belief ●

be obedient to an authority over and above himself.

The rejection of such authority leads not to freedom but to tyranny—a tyranny which springs not, as in past centuries, from a fundamentalist approach to truth, but from the bestial of absolute authority on the expression of what individuals, or a group, believe to be self-evident truths but which, in fact, only reflect contemporary fashions.

Subjectivism, is based on the belief that principles and values are in essence no more than statements about the likes and dislikes, desires and aversions of those who hold them.

From this it follows that there is no possibility of any resolution of disagreements about questions of principles

Why fashion pushed out natural law

and value or even of politics. Indeed discussion about them becomes impossible for there are no common criteria to which appeal can be made in rational discourse.

There can be no more on the part of the subjectivist, than the restatement of what he considered to be self-evident truths, and he is impervious to the arguments or criticisms of those who seek to challenge him.

It is for this reason that subjectivism leads to the Inquisition and to the rule of the saints in Calvinism, but with one significant difference. Fundamentalism could claim, albeit in the wrong way, to the demands of truth outside man, whereas subjectivism leads to violence because it has no objective criteria to which it can appeal.

The results of Western civilization are now widely dispersed, but the very qualities and characteristics which made those results possible have largely disappeared, they are now experienced and used without the control which is necessary if they are to be beneficial.

The concept of natural law underlay the Roman system of law which undergirded Western civilization. Professor D'Entreves could write: "It is no exaggeration to say that, next to the Bible, no book has left a deeper mark upon the history of mankind than the Corpus Iuris Civilis".

Compiled by a body of Byzantine lawyers by order of the Emperor Justinian, it was completed in AD 529. The Corpus distinguished between the *ius civile*, the law of the State for a particular community; the *ius gentium*, the law of nations, to regulate relationships between them; and the *ius naturale*, the higher or ultimate law to which law makers have to be subject.

● Hard to find a sharper rejection of this doctrine ●

was drawn from Greek philosophy, and inspired Cicero's famous definition in his *Republic*: "True law is right reason in agreement with nature; it is of universal application, unchanging and everlasting; it summons to duty by its commands and averts from wrong-doing by its prohibitions".

It is hard to find a sharper rejection of this doctrine than that in the words of Rousseau, who substituted the notion of the *volonte generale* for natural law.

"On this view", he writes, "we at once see that it can no longer be asked whose business it is to make laws, since they are acts of the General Will; nor whether a prince is above law, since he is a

member of the State; nor whether the law can be unjust, since no one is unjust to himself; nor how we can be both free and subject to the laws, since they are but registers of our wills."

It is fashionable today among traditionalists to attribute evils of today to the Enlightenment, and there is much truth in the charge but it did not arise like a mutation. Natural law never reigned unchallenged, not even in the Middle Ages.

There is, however, no doubt that the thinkers of the Enlightenment praised and gave forceful expression to latent ideas which came to a profound influence in the West. The concept of the *volonte generale*, which identified the right and the good with the will of the majority, opened the way for the development of ideological politics.

Politics was transformed from being the attempt to work out a way to live in which to regulate the legitimate claims of the individual and of the community, majorities and minorities, rights and duties, into an autonomous exercise of power—owing no allegiance to any moral absolute outside itself, by which human happiness, as determined by an ideology, was to be enforced.

It is this latter concept of politics which has come to dominate political activity even in those countries which would regard themselves in the ancient democratic tradition.

Graham Londin

This is an extract from the Fulton Lecture by the Bishop of London, Dr Graham Leonard, at Westminster College, Fulton, Missouri, last night

School announcements

Brighton College
Michaelmas term began on September 8. Mr J.L. Leach, who takes over as Headmaster from Mr W.S. Blackshaw, who retires after sixteen years' service. New Housemasters are Mr A.E.N. Whitestone (Chichester) and Mr D.M. Lowe (Dumfries). Jason Andrews is Head of School. Open day is on October 24. The Senior Play *The Shoemaker's Holiday* is on November 25, 26 and 27. The Christmas concert on December 4 and the carol services on 17 and 19. The OBA dinner is on November 20.

Culford School
Autumn term began on September 16, at Culford School. Keith Rowe is Head Boy and Joanne Broadbridge is Head Girl. The David Anderson Memorial Concert, featuring Evelyn Glennie will take place on Saturday, October 3. The carol service will be held in St Edmundsbury Cathedral on Friday, December 18, when the term ends.

Glenalmond College
Mr S.D.R. Hall was installed as the fourteenth Warden of Glenalmond College at a service held in the college chapel on September 12. The Primate of the Episcopal Church in Scotland officiated.

Holmwood House, London, Colchester, is pleased to announce that from September 1988 Mr H.S. Thackray (currently Deputy Head of Lochinver House School, Potters Bar) will become a partner of the school with Mr J.R. Lucas and Mr S.E. Duggan, succeeding them as Headmaster.

Autumn term has begun with a record number of pupils in the school, brought about by a further increase in the number of girls, both boarding and day. The school day ends on October 10 and term ends after the carol service at 4.00 pm on Wednesday, December 16.

Victoria College, Long Ditton
The first term of this new school began on Thursday, September 17. The curriculum will follow the English Primary School guidelines with provisions for the teaching of Arabic and religious instruction in both Muslim and Christian faiths. Parents' evening will be held on Thursday, October 1. Term ends on Thursday, December 17. Mr J.R.C. Higgs is Headmaster.

Service dinners

Naval Meteorological Branch
Captain M.J.R. Nestor presided at a dinner held last night at HMS Daedalus to commemorate the fifth anniversary of the formation of the Naval Meteorological Branch. Admiral J.A. Bell also spoke.

The King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry
Brigadier R.S. C. Preston presided at the annual dinner of The King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry Regimental Officers Club held last night at the Royal York Hotel, York.

The Green Howards
The Lord Mayor of York was a guest at the annual officers' dinner of The Green Howards (Alexandra Princess of Wales's Own Yorkshire Regiment) held last night at Merchant Adventurers' Hall, York. Lieutenant-General P.A. Inge, Colonel of the Regiment, presided.

Blythe Sappers
Mr J.A.C. Roseveare was in the chair at the annual dinner of the Blythe Sappers held yesterday at the Royal Engineers Headquarters, Chelsea.

TA&VRA for Greater London
Colonel G.S.P. Carden presided at a dinner given by the Territorial Auxiliary and Volunteer Reserve Association for Greater London last night at the Duke of York's Headquarters, Chelsea.

Sir Alan Stanger, KCB, was the guest of honor at the annual dinner of the Territorial Auxiliary and Volunteer Reserve Association for Greater London last night at the Duke of York's Headquarters, Chelsea.

OBITUARY

SIR WILLIAM COOK

Hydrogen bombs and nuclear reactors

Sir William Cook, KCB, FRS, who died on September 16, at the age of 82, had a remarkable Civil Service career, in which he was a driving force behind many postwar technological developments relating to defence.

At the Ministry of Supply immediately after the war, he was an early and strong advocate of research and development on rockets; later, at the Admiralty, he pursued advances in underwater warfare; he can claim much credit for the speed with which the British hydrogen bomb was developed; and, afterwards, at the UK Atomic Energy Commission, he was able to apply the lessons learned from this in bringing into commission some of the new British nuclear reactors.

William Richard Joseph Cook was born on April 10, 1905. He entered the Civil Service in 1928, after graduating from Bristol University, and joined the Research Department, Woolwich, which was at that time part of the War Office.

Armaments work was not then regarded as of high importance, but one of the few vigorous areas was ballistics. Cook went into this branch and was soon recognized as one of the most able of the younger men. During the 1930s with the belated awareness of the need for a rearmament programme, his responsibilities increased.

His work led to research on rockets, and during the Second World War he was one of the influential members of the Ministry of Supply team working in this field.

The remarkable achievements of the German effort on long range rockets had been monitored closely during the war, and when the war was over, German sites and factories were inspected. Cook early appreciated what was going to happen when rockets and nuclear bombs were combined in weapons systems.

After the war there was a far-reaching reduction in engineering for defence, but those having the top responsibilities realized the future importance of the rocket. It seemed to be essential that some British effort should be maintained in this field. A research and development establishment to work on rockets began to be created by the Ministry of Supply, and Cook was made the Director.

In spite of many difficulties, considerable progress was made, often through the strong personality of Cook himself. However, arguments developed as to where responsibility for rocket work should lie, and about the scale

of the effort. Cook, discouraged by a government decision to slow down the British effort on rocket development and rely on the Americans—a tale all too familiar in our own day—sought work elsewhere.

In 1947, Cook was appointed Director of Physical Research in the Admiralty and soon mastered this new sphere. It was largely his influence which saw considerable advances in underwater warfare though this was a complicated subject with which he had no previous connexion.

Cook became Chief of the Royal Naval Scientific Service in 1950 and held this post successfully for nearly four years. His outstanding capacity to understand the technical aspects of the projects in the naval programme, coupled with his skill as a leader of men, gained him the full confidence both of the Scientific Service and of his Naval colleagues. Both were sorry when he decided to move elsewhere.

By 1954 the British nuclear weapons programme was growing fast, and Cook went to Aldermaston as Deputy Director. This was at the time when the British nuclear weapons programme was developing a hydrogen bomb. Because of the McMahon Act, there was then no collaboration with the Americans.

The success of this work in the remarkably short time of three years, culminating in the successful series of tests in 1958, was due in great measure to the energy, executive skill and capacity for sheer hard work that Cook brought to Aldermaston. His habit of mastering all technical aspects of the job gave him and his colleagues many long hours of work, but his ability to focus attention on the important issues earned him the respect of his staff.

In 1958, he left Aldermaston to become a member of the UK Atomic Energy Authority, responsible for the growing civil application of nuclear energy. He

was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society in 1962, knighted in 1958, and created KCB in 1970. He leaves his widow, Gladys, and a son and a daughter, as well as daughter from a former marriage.

He was succeeded by Dr Marcello Caetano. When he began to flex the occasional liberal muscle, Tomás exercised his presidential powers, and swiftly suppressed all hope of change.

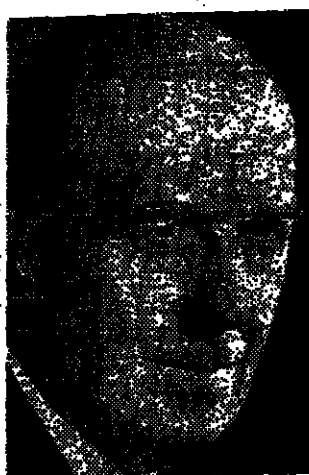
But his powers were to no avail when, in 1974, the régime was cast aside in a military coup, and Tomás was incarcerated on Madeira, whence he was despatched, with Caetano, to Brazil, and exile. He was expelled from the navy soon afterwards.

To the surprise of many, not least to Portugal's socialists, he was allowed to return to the land of his birth four years later—on condition that he took no part in politics—to live out his last days (which turned into years) in failing health. His time was occupied with the writing of his memoirs.

His pride in his role in the First War was shown by his defiant wearing of the Royal Flying Corps tie whenever he took part in a significant debate in the House of Lords.

Sir John Leslie Turiag, 11th Bt, MC, died on September 17. He was 92. A former lieutenant in the Seaforth Highlanders, he fought in the First World War, was wounded, and awarded the Military Cross.

His wife, Nina, whom he married in 1975, survives him.



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joined the civil side at a time of great expansion.

The major part of his work was to apply the information learnt in the building of reactors for military purposes to the economic production of electricity on a huge scale. It included the final development of the Magnox Reactors of the first British Nuclear Power Programme, and continued the development of the Advanced Gas Cooled Reactor which later formed the basis of the second British Nuclear Power Programme.

The Authority, on his recommendation, embarked on the development of the steam generating heavy water system by the construction of a prototype at Winfrith.

In 1964, Cook was pressed hard to return to the defence field. The re-organisation of the Defence ministries and the difficult decisions that had to be made about costly projects had made it necessary to find a strong man with experience of large-scale work to play a key role.

He became Deputy Chief Scientific Adviser in the Ministry of Defence in 1964, retiring from full-time duties in 1970, although he continued as a consultant.

In 1971 Cook began a close association with Rolls-Royce, initially undertaking on behalf of the Government an independent assessment of the prospects for the RB-211, which was built to power the American Lockheed Tristar. He joined the Board of Rolls-Royce (1971) Limited, formed after the fixed-price contract for the RB-211 had brought about the ruin of the original Rolls Royce Company. He remained a Director until December 1976.

Cook did a great deal for the company during this period, he also joined the Boards of Rolls-Royce Turbomeca Limited and Rolls-Royce Turbo-Union Limited, collaborative ventures with European partners.

Following his retirement he continued as a consultant to the Ministry of Defence on nuclear safety, and was a consultant to British Telecom. Cook was a man of small stature but of huge energies. He was dedicated to his scientific work, and to his country. Certainly he worked his fellows and subordinates hard, but they could always perceive his aims, and he won from them the deepest of respect.

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REAR-ADMIRAL AMÉRICO TOMÁS

Rear-Admiral Américo Tomás, President of Portugal from 1958 until he was deposed in an almost bloodless coup in 1974, died yesterday. He was 92.

Américo Deus Rodrigues Tomás was born in Lisbon on November 19, 1894. He embarked upon a naval career at an early age, enlisting as an apprentice in the Corps of Navy Pupils in 1914. He completed his studies at the Naval School where he won the *Visconde de Lencastre* prize on gaining the highest marks.

He then served briefly on the cruiser *Vasco da Gama*. Until the end of the war he was on board the auxiliary cruiser *Pedro Nunes* and the destroyer *Douro*, ferrying troops to France, and on convoy service to England.

After the war, he did a brief stint at naval headquarters, before joining the hydrographical ship *Cinco de Outubro*. Tomás remained with the vessel for the next sixteen years, on the arduous task of surveying the Portuguese coast and the drawing up of charts—a task which was undertaken partly on his instigation.

Then, in 1936, he was appointed departmental head to the Minister for the Navy, becoming also, four years later, president of the national board for the merchant navy. By 1944 he was Minister for the Navy.

He at once set about enlarging and modernizing the country's merchant fleet in wartime, introducing a "plan of renovation" for the building of seventy ships. He also set up special training schools for sailors and mechanics, and he oversaw the building of new lighthouses around the coast.

On the political scene, he was a keen supporter of the *Estado Novo* (New State) right-wing dictatorial régime, influenced by Italian Fascism, and established in 1932 by Dr António de Oliveira Salazar, Prime Minister from 1932 to 1968.

Tomás's tenure as Naval Minister came to an end in 1958 when he became President, following elections which were widely regarded as having been rigged. They were, certainly, the last for some time with any vestige of democracy. His presidential mandate was twice renewed by an electoral college made

up of members of the régime. Tomás was, on the face of it, a dull and good-natured character. He was a conscientious figurehead, popularly as "the ribbon-cutter" for his frequent opening of schools, bridges, and the like.

But he vehemently protected the interests of those hardliners within the régime who were opposed to democratic reform both at home and in the colonies. He dismissed Salazar (who was seriously ill) in 1968.

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To the surprise of many, not least to Portugal's

September 19-25, 1987

SATURDAY

A WEEKLY GUIDE TO LEISURE
ENTERTAINMENT AND THE ARTS

The roar that woke the dragon

Exhausted but exhilarated, the drivers in the world's toughest rally rolled into Peking yesterday after five days on the road. Brian James followed them through a bemused hinterland

To the Chinese book of superlatives, two more should now be added: after the Long March and the Long Drive and the Longest Stare.

The long drive is the 2,375 miles Hong Kong to Peking rally, an event in which motor sport is stretched to the edge of impossibility and which ended with due drama in the shade of the great wall.

The longest stare was the collective look of gaping, grinning incredulity, bent by an audience estimated at close to 10 million on to the 518 men and women of the West who took part. The most direct road route between these cities is a mile shorter. But short routes and direct routes are not what rallying is about: so the organizer had added loops of minor, mountainous perilous gravel roads, along which some of the world's best — and a few of the world's daftest — drivers threw the 60 competing cars in a race against the clock that lasted five days and a night and was seldom more than a split-second from metal-tearing mishap.

The event passed through areas so remote that the peasants had hardly ever seen a saloon car, and most had never seen a western face. The convoy of 192 cars (competitors and service crews) often needed no maps, the route being defined by roadside walls of faces, round-eyed with wonder, at whom tough professional mechanics who looked as though they take off wheelnuts with their teeth were to be seen waving with the practised elegance of the Queen Mother.

This was the third year of the rally. The first was near-disaster: the racing cars outran supplies of food and fuel; teams vanished for hours in wilderness. Last year was much better. And this year, the commercial drive to carry the 555 sponsors' names across half a nation just awakening to its role as a market, gave the rally extra impetus. Gathered in Hong Kong by last Sunday were three ex-world champions, at least six other men with official team status for Ford, Toyota and Nissan, and then half a hundred other crews, whose motives were as mixed as their abilities.

There were garage owners from Hong Kong, laying down £10,000 for the business it might bring. There was a

laconic Australian, Ross "Croc" Dunkerton, who is his country's most famous rallyist, and was here as a sort of hired gun to help a wealthy fan to achieve a life dream. There were a couple of brave young Brits, Tim Dean-Smith and Rod Sykes, running the gauntlet on a sponsored wildlife ticker to save the panda.

But whether they were part of that £250,000 a year elite of Scandinavian mercenaries or merely race-mad amateurs, they shared a vivid journey. Very little of the odyssey was comfortable (one co-driver claims to be exporting his mattress from one over-night stop, to start a "Chinese wildlife park" in Britain). But there was not a boring yard.

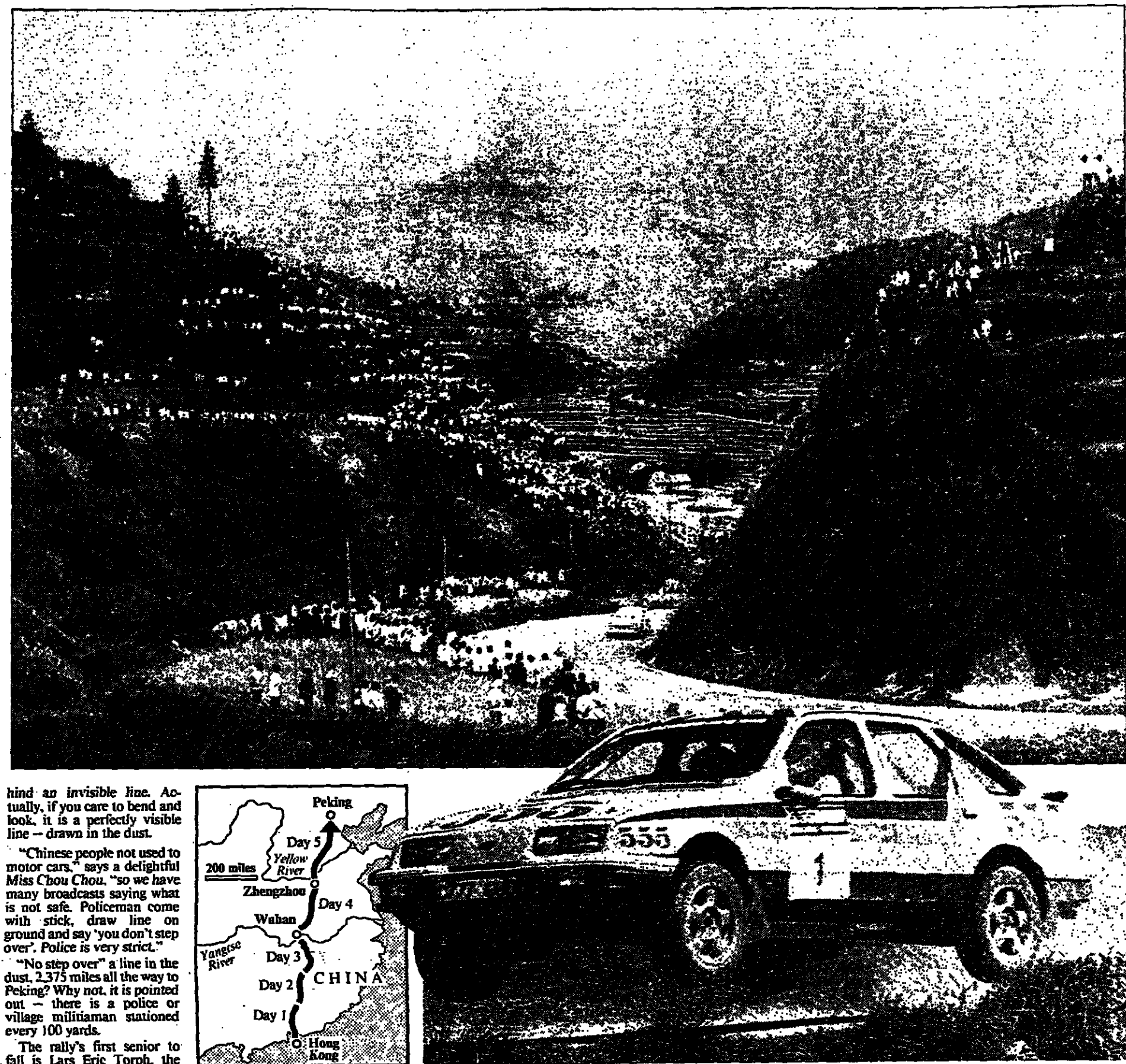
Ask the mechanic who, during an emergency repair in a ditch, reached for a "fan belt" which hissed at him and wriggled serpentine from his hand. Ask the crew who stood open-mouthed as Chinese urchins took from their pockets pet bluebottles on thread, and proceeded to hold an aerial dogfight. Ask the two British film men who switched off their cameras and plunged into a lake to pull an unconscious crew from an upturned and sinking car. No one else moved, apparently. They thought this merely an aquatic variation of the main event.



Just over the border, China produces its first puzzle. A sign set in just another stretch of beautiful green farmland: "No photographs for 20 kilometres". We were warned to watch and obey such signs. Why this place, with nothing more warlike than a bullock cart in evidence, should be sensitive is odd. Also mildly unfair — considering that every man in the convoy has been captured on video cameras at least a dozen times by unsmiling young uniformed Chinese clearly not making a *Carry On Up The Carburator* comedy.

The first of the special stages at Hui Yang gives proof of Chinese thoroughness. The cars flash through villages empty of humanity. The people have been moved, it is explained, for their safety. Sent where? Someone points to hills outside the village — covered like a football kop.

Equally eerie is the way the Chinese keep back a sane distance, as though held be-



For the drivers, no turning back; and for the spectators, no stepping over a thin line in the dust all the way to Peking — "Chinese people not used to motor cars"

hind an invisible line. Actually, if you care to bend and look, it is a perfectly visible line — drawn in the dust.

"Chinese people not used to motor cars," says a delightful Miss Chou Chou, "so we have many broadcasts saying what is not safe. Policemen come with stick, draw line on ground and say 'you don't step over'. Police is very strict."

"No step over" a line in the dust, 2,375 miles all the way to Peking? Why not, it is pointed out — there is a police or village militiaman stationed every 100 yards.

The rally's first senior to fail is Lars Eric Torph, the promising Swedish driver, who busts an axle on his works Toyota at almost his first pothole. No one has to tell him the penalty. Everyone was reminded again and again before the border "there is no going back... you must carry on to Peking even if you are towed every mile of the way."

Last year Torph was having blown his engine on the first, hind an invisible line. Actually, if you care to bend and look, it is a perfectly visible line — drawn in the dust.

At the end of a second day spent haring through villages often heartbreakingly poor but as picturesque as a plate pattern, Swede Waldegard was leading from two countrymen, with a Finn, Vaitanen, fourth; but in three of the first four cars it was a Brit who was sitting in the second seat shouting: "It's left for Peking — and watch that flaming buffalo."

It is Miss Chou who first explains why, when cars worth £65,000 halt in villages collectively saving up for a new saddle for the town's mayoral bike, the vehicle is ignored, and every eye turns to the drivers. "Most village people see white people on TV. But not before in colour."

No day that begins at 3.30am, ends at 14. non-stop hours later 500 miles away across two of China's most populated provinces can be other than memorable; yet what is most indelible about day three is what is not seen. In all that endless journey we do not encounter a single saloon car that is not part of our own enterprise: outside its cities China is a carless land.

Even at that bizarre starting hour, the rally has hundreds of its watchers already in their places. The batteries of huge headlamps on every car pick up glints from the darkness — not animal eyes, but grinning human teeth.

An episode at lunch, we hunker down in a deserted spot (which nevertheless produces two dozen Chinese from nowhere in as many seconds) and reach for the hot-cans. These are self-heating containers which need only air, pricked by a nail into the outer shell, to produce a steaming meal.

The Toyota mechanics had not even missed the bright spanner still clutched in the hand of the 14-year-old dragged from a rice field by a furious adult. But it is clear from the mime that he has stolen the tool. The Toyota men frown and are prepared to leave it at that.

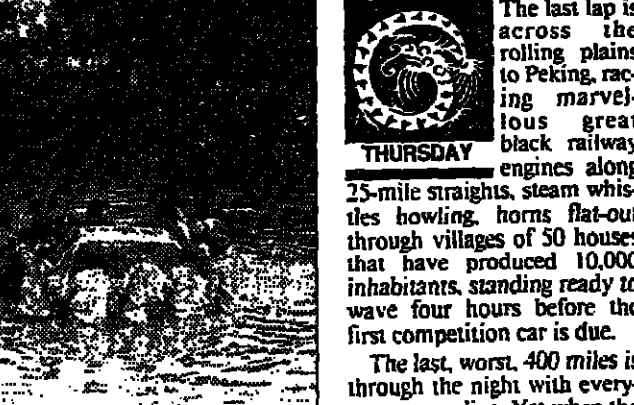
But not the villagers of Nan Chiang. The culprit is perched on a stone and lectured by the man who caught him. And when he runs out of breath or inspiration, another adult takes over. Then another. And another. For over two hours the sobbing youth is lectured about the disgrace he had brought on his community and himself. "He will never again have face," explains an interpreter.

Farmer Lui Xie gives a

We cross the Yangtze at Wuchang, where a year ago they say a million people counted the cars out. Tonight they had fewer to count in for two of the top drivers have gone, a Finn who hit a tree and a Swede whose engine has had enough.

North from Wuhan, and into a devastatingly different China. The faces are browner.

North from Wuhan, and into a devastatingly different China. The faces are browner.



Spectator sport: to the Chinese, this was just part of the fun

glimpse of another aspect of Chinese life the rally affects: has he ever been in a car? Yes. Well, not exactly — a truck. Its top speed? He thought perhaps 20 mph. What would he say to the speed of these cars, say 125 mph? The figure, translated, goes through the crowd like a shock wave; men cover their faces in mock fear. Mr Xie: "It takes our village truck four days and four nights with two drivers to get

the cheekbones higher, the eyes more slanted. The pretty girls from the south have vanished. And now no one wears anything other than the drab Mao-tunics that were the uniform of China five years ago. Time warp.

Until a few months back this was a "closed" province, denied absolutely to westerners and, apparently, western ideas. Faces stare blankly; and the owners back hurriedly

away if we step too close. We become the first car to tackle one 100-mile stretch of the route: Haley's comet, circling the globe at zero feet would produce a similar reaction. Chinese in their tens of thousands line a road to peer at the gawwail — white men. We come to one town where, I estimate, 100,000 people wait along its arrow-straight main street. For the first 500 yards our lone vehicle parades past blank, silent stares. Then, embarrassed, we opened the windows and yell "harro". Instantly, grins, yells, waves, jigs and whistles. Liverpool, coming home with the cup, would have been flattered by the next two miles.

By now fatigue is affecting men and metal alike. The 555-sponsored effort to get Blomqvist's Ford home first is being brilliantly led from the driving seat. "We came here equipped for crossing an uninhabited desert," says owner Andy Dawson, an outfit from a Nissan hut in Silverstone taking on the might of Nissan and Toyota. That means a £250,000 budget, 200 items of spares, five trucks, 20 men and 170 tyres.

The last lap is across the rolling plains to Peking, racing marvellous great black railway engines along 25-mile straights, steam whistles howling, horns flat-out through villages of 30 houses that have produced 10,000 inhabitants, standing ready to wave four hours before the first competition car is due.

The last, worst, 400 miles is through the night with everyone now reeling. Yet when the Ford team hear that Blomqvist has come to a halt 10 miles from the finish of a stage, two mechanics pick up tools and start running through the woods. As they reach him, he tries the engine once more. It fires, and he disappears past them in a shower of gravel. But the delay was crucial. His 30 second lead has gone and he finishes third.

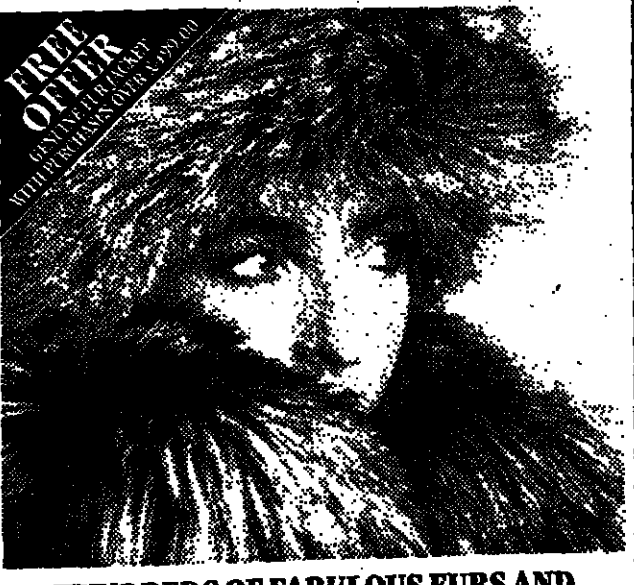
The winners are Waldegard and his British co-driver, Fred Gallagher, who comes blaring through an archway of the wall. Triumph for a team that has already won the two other great adventure rallies, the Safari and the Ivory Coast. "When we first came to China it was like going to Mars," Gallagher says. "It's changing."

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Full guide to the weekend television and radio, page 23

TRAVEL 2

Old Russia with a new pride



Seeing something more of the world's capitals than the conventional sights is the goal of every traveller. In this new series correspondents of *The Times* point to lesser known pleasures of the cities they cover. Mary Dejevsky, who reported from Moscow this summer, found Muscovites happy to share their city

To outsiders, Moscow is a forbidding city. The distances are huge. The Cyrillic script makes street signs indecipherable. The temptation is to stay with your tour guide and stray no further from the hotel lobby than the next street corner.

But Moscow is not unmanageable. It has friendly and walkable corners. Muscovites are no longer as shy of strangers as they were, and westerners are no longer as conspicuous. Taking photographs is now generally risk-free, in the centre, and for everyone who stares and asks for chewing gum there will be dozens who are delighted to practise their English, put you on the right bus and show off their capital.

To sense the pace of Moscow life, stroll slowly down Gorky Street, window-shopping with the crowds. One of the pre-revolutionary city's main shopping streets, it is still a centre of commercial life. With the red brick walls and golden domes of the Kremlin ahead in the distance, you are constantly reminded of old Russia.

Drop into Gastronom No 1 (halfway down on the left hand side as you face Red Square) to see the polished wooden fittings and chandeliers of what used to be Yeliseyev, the pre-revolutionary grocery shop to the elite. Closer to Red Square, venture down the streets to left and right, which are intact, if dilapidated, 19th-century residential streets. Pushkinskaya ulitsa which runs parallel to Gorky Street is a particularly fine example.

At the end of Gorky Street, you can cross directly into the expanse of Red Square by the underpass. Straight ahead is the fabulous landmark of Moscow, St Basil's Cathedral, with its oriental domes (the interior is newly restored and open to the public).

The pride of post-revolutionary Moscow is the metro, its spacious and highly decorated stations — some marble, some with mosaics and frescoes — compare in their scale to foyers of 1920s skyscrapers in New York. Pay the five

copek (five pence) flat fare, descend by fast-moving escalators, and a wet morning can be spent travelling the metro (the lines are colour coded) and alighting at the more spectacular stations (Komsomolskaya, Kievskaya, Ploshchad revolyutsii).

Nowhere is the contrast between old and new more pointed than in the Arbat area of central Moscow, the old heart of the city. Stary Arbat (metro Arbatnaya) has recently been restored and reopened as a pedestrian precinct. The restoration, a triumph for Moscow's rapidly growing conservationist lobby, has produced a street thronged with portrait painters and lined with interesting small shops selling second-hand books, records and jewellery.

A better bet for snacking than the cafes (which have interminable queues) are the ice cream stalls and fruit juice and biscuit stands. There are also shashlik barbecues, but the price of meat — priced in units of 100 grams — can be very high.

At the end of Stary Arbat, turn right and right again to walk back down Kalinin prospekt, known to Muscovites as the "new Arbat", with its skyscraper blocks set boldly at an angle to the street. Dom mody (fashion house) half way down on the right is the premier Moscow clothes store; Dom knigi (the main bookshop) almost opposite has a special department of political posters on the ground floor; upstairs are postcards, records and sheet music which, like the art books, are good value.

The markets are where the Russian countryside meets the town. The main fruit and vegetable markets — Tsentrnyy rynek (the Central Market) and the Muscovites' favourite, Cherenushkinskiy rynek (metro Universitetskaya, then follow the crowds) — are open Tuesday to Saturday.

Flowers from the Caucasian republics are flown in daily, there are melons from Central Asia, and wizened peasant women in pat-



Marketplace economy: the weekend pet market, Pechiyniy rynek, where commercial instincts so often suppressed come to the fore in the trade of fish, kittens and puppies

terned headscarves selling cottage cheese, honey and wickerware. If you are tempted to buy, however, watch the prices: a kilo of apples out of season could set you back £4 or more.

On Saturdays and Sundays there are two open-air city markets where the often suppressed commercial instincts of Muscovites come to the surface. The pet market, Pechiyniy rynek, is in the eastern suburbs (metro Taganskaya, then take the minibus — 15 copecks — or a taxi).

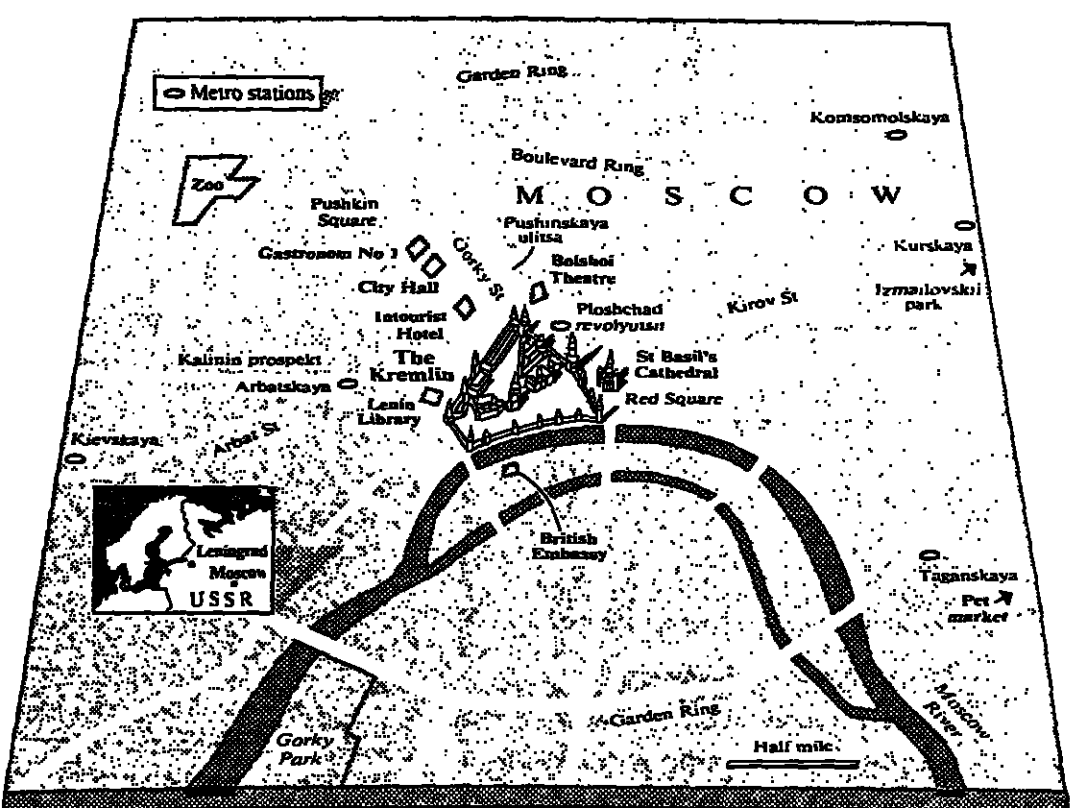
Hundreds of people cram into a small and rundown courtyard to trade puppies, kittens, hens, birds of all sorts and tropical fish. There are fine pedigree dogs, festooned with medals, on display for sale.

The art market at Izmailovo park (metro Izmailovskiy park, then one stop on the 14 trolleybus, or take a taxi — about 4 roubles from the city centre) is the legal descendant of earlier unofficial art markets. While the quality and prices are variable, the sight of Muscovites on a day out and the picturesque surroundings — once an ecclesiastical estate — make for an unusual afternoon out among Russians.

On a free evening take time out to go to the Arbat restaurant on Kalinin prospekt to see the floor show and Russians enjoying themselves. Pay two roubles admission at the door and ask for a table on the mezzanine. Order champagne (about six roubles) or dry white Georgian wine (much cheaper) — and enjoy the show.

TRAVEL NOTES

Intourist Moscow, 292 Regent Street, London W1R 6QL (01-631 1252) offers year-round flights at £320. British Airways (01-897 4000) has an excursion fare at £416. Tour operators organizing holidays in Moscow include Sovereign (01-897 4545), Thomson Holidays (01-387 8484), Global (01-637 3333), Cosmos (01-464 3400) and Travelscene (01-466 6411). A few hints: Souvenirs are better bought in foreign currency shops, but do not wait until the airport — the shops there may be closed. You will need very few roubles (except for taxis, snacks etc). Wear a headscarf in working churches. Keep your documents on you, just in case.



OUT AND ABOUT

Murderous mementos

The romantic beauty of Berkeley Castle belies its grisly past. Nigel Andrew roams the battlements

Rose red and grey, the colour of old brocade, the walls and towers of Berkeley Castle have mellowed with time into the most enchanting beauty. To look at it now, you would not think such a building could have been the scene of one of history's most brutal murders. But so it was, of course, when in 1327 Edward III was done to death here by his gaolers.

Oddly the room where this is supposed to have happened imparts no grisly frisson. Reconstructed with a table and chair, a memento mori and a crucifix, it has the air of an apartment in a select retreat house.

This part of the keep is much altered anyway, and it takes a good long stare into the 28ft-deep bottle-dungeon to reawaken some sense of medieval horror. Into this hole would be flung the rotting carcasses of cattle, in the hope that the fumes would slowly asphyxiate the prisoner in the room above — which they didn't in Edward's case. Prisoners of lowlier degree might be flung in, still alive, on top of the carcasses.

The Berkeley involvement in Edward's murder was probably passive, and certainly uncharacteristic of a family whose interests have generally lain more in the hunt and the land than in affairs of state. The castle is still lived in by Berkeleys, though the earldom is now extinct.

From the outside it really is an astonishing building, a great mass of embattled walls and mighty buttresses, which seem almost a part of the cliff on which they stand. Indeed the stones in places support thriving colonies of red valerian. Beneath, a succession of terraced lawns fall to the wide expanse of water meadows which, for defensive pur-



Built for business; but behind the medieval walls Berkeley Castle has an almost homely air

poses, could once be flooded from the nearby Severn. Berkeley Castle was obviously built for business, and yet at the same time it has an overwhelmingly romantic, fairytale air. Inside it is comfortable and domestic, devoted to the arts of living, not of war. The structure is unmistakably that of an ancient castle, with massively thick walls, low doorways, stone arches and huge roofbeams; but the interiors are softened with fine tapestries and carpets, giltwood furniture and quantities of paintings, including a superbly luminous Stubbs.

Though originally a Norman construction, the castle was completely remodelled in the 14th century; and it is the feel of that century that has potentially survived. It is strongest perhaps in the great hall, with its high wooden roof and heraldic stained glass. The ornate screen is a 16th-century survival, comprehensively

pointed with decorative figures, arms and pious exhortations.

The kitchen and buttery remain chunkily medieval, with huge fireplaces and gigantic chopping blocks, pestle and mortar and solid lead sinks — all under a remarkable timber roof. There is also a room-sized game larder, white-tiled from floor to ceiling.

The "Grand Stairs" are really almost homely: this is a castle, not a country villa. At the top are the three lovely state rooms which are the climax of the interior tour — the morning room, converted from a medieval chapel, the long drawing room with its splendid wooden gallery known as the King's Pew, and the small drawing room, a mellow "evening room". Each of these is quite ravishing, and demands a long look.

Returning to the outside, the temptation is to linger for hours about the purlieus of the castle, discovering new angles on that magnificent skyline, wandering about the terraced gardens, and enjoying the views.

But do try and leave time for the town of Berkeley. Small, charming and rather decayed, it has a grand medieval church with a detached bell tower in 18th-century "gothic", and the Chantry, which was the home of Edward Jenner, the great vaccinator, and now houses an excellent museum to his memory — don't miss the rustic "Temple of Vaccinia" in the garden. Drinks and a good lunch may be had at the 18th-century Berkeley Arms Hotel.

Berkeley Castle, midway between Bristol and Gloucester, just off the A38, is open daily except Mondays in September, 2-5pm; and on Sundays in October, 2-4.30pm. Admission £2, children £1 (0453 810332).

OUTINGS

COLLEGE OF STORYTELLERS GRAND CELEBRITY MUSIC including the London Gospel Choir, dancing — join in with the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society — and other folk groups. Bar and food. All proceeds to Afghan relief. Tabernacle Community Centre, Powis Square, London W11. Tonight 8pm. Tickets £8.50.

TRADITIONAL FARM ACTIVITIES: Period costume, authentic activities and traditional farming techniques in a recreation of early 19th-century life. Take wellingtons. Shugborough Park Farm, Shugborough, Milford, near Stafford (0889 881388). Today 12noon-5.30pm, tomorrow 10.30am-5.30pm. Adult £1.50, child 75p. Refreshments and free car park.

ANGEL AWAKES CANAL: SUNDAY: Islington Boat Club open day with a rally of boats, exhibition of canal

crafts, charity market, children's entertainers, bands and refreshments. City Road Basin, London EC1. Tomorrow 11.30am-5pm.

FAMOUS GROUSE NATIONAL GARRAGE DRIVING CHAMPIONSHIPS: Ten classes competed for by Britain's top drivers — from single pony to horse tandem and teams. Shops, trade stands, refreshments. Smiths Lawn, Windsor Great Park, Windsor. Today 8.30am-5pm, tomorrow 8am-5pm. Admission £6 per car plus occupants.

WARGAMES & MODELLING FAIR '87: Armageddon wargames championships, demonstrations of musketry and medieval combat, displays of military models and uniforms. Refreshments and bar. The Hexagon, Reading, Berkshire. Today, tomorrow 10.30am-5pm. Adult £1.50, child 5-16 £1, under 5s free.

Judy Froshaug

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WEEKEND WALK

Skye the largest of the Inner Hebridean islands, is a haven for many walkers who relish the untamed beauty of the black gabbro Cullins at the heart of the island. But not far away on the Trotternish peninsula lies a walk which has a magic all of its own through spectacular scenery and an almost lunar landscape of rocks and pinacles, with a wealth of flora and fauna.

The Storr is part of a ridge formed by a massive landslide stretching a mile to the coast. The walk starts just after Loch Leathan, north of Portree, crossing a stile before the forestry plantation.

Follow the path through the woods and up to the famous landmark of the Old Man of Storr. The cliffs which tower 500ft above you are formed of a vast stack of basalt lavas, 59 million years old. After these gassy lavas cooled the bubbles were inflated by zeolite minerals for you to discover in fallen blocks on your path.

Ravens, hooded crows, buzzards and ring ouzel may be seen, but a sighting of our most famous raptor, the golden eagle, will highlight the day.

Continue past the Old Man and strike left after the fence, walking up to the cliff ridge. From here the beautiful splendour of the Highlands unfolds: Raasay and the Scottish mainland dominate the scene with the Old Man now looking rather insignificant below.

Follow the edge to the summit of the Storr at 235ft ft, and descend just in front of Bealach Bann as marked by a small cairn. From here it is simple to retrace your route.

Grace Yoxon




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DRINK

Family chain reaction

The village where I grew up boasted Arthur Rackham's as one of its three off-licences. This dark, almost empty shop was where my parents went when their London wine merchant failed to deliver, or when bottles of fizz were required for a last-minute celebration.

But the wine trade has had to change to survive, and this 14-strong, family-run, independent off-licence chain, based in London and Surrey, now offers a decent selection of champagne, claret, burgundy and Iberian peninsula wines topped up with a dozen or two from Australia and California.

Rackham's customers now have the opportunity to join the Vintner Wine Club (VWC) and to enjoy the annual Vintner Wine Festival, tutored tastings and dinners via a School of Wine and Club.

Gastronomie, plus special offers, a wine list and a quarterly newsletter. Membership is £12 annually; write to VWC at Winfare House, 5 High Road, Byfleet, Weybridge, Surrey (TW20 2JH) for details or join via an Arthur Rackham's branch.

Best of all VWC members qualify for a 6 per cent or so discount on Rackham's wines, whether you buy a complete case or just a single bottle.

In addition, this month Rackham's is holding a special Bordeaux event with a different claret available for tasting each week in all 14 branches, plus a special offer of 13 bottles for the price of 12 on selected wines. My favourite of these by far, and available for tasting today, is the excellent '83 Chateau Segonzac, a 100% Cotes du Blaise claret from directly opposite St Julien. Its rich garnet red colour and Merlot-dominated spicy-oaky fruit is reminiscent of coffee and eucalyptus. At £4.95 a bottle retail, or £4.70 for VWC members, it makes a splendid autumnal red.

Three other fine '83 clarets that also are not included in the Bordeaux promotion but are good buys all the same are a trio of Cordier's second wines from their leading Medoc estates: the '83 Cote de Talbot from Chateau Talbot, the '83 Sarget de Gaud Larose from Gaud Larose, and the '83 Prieur de Meyne, a cru exceptionnel from St Estephe.

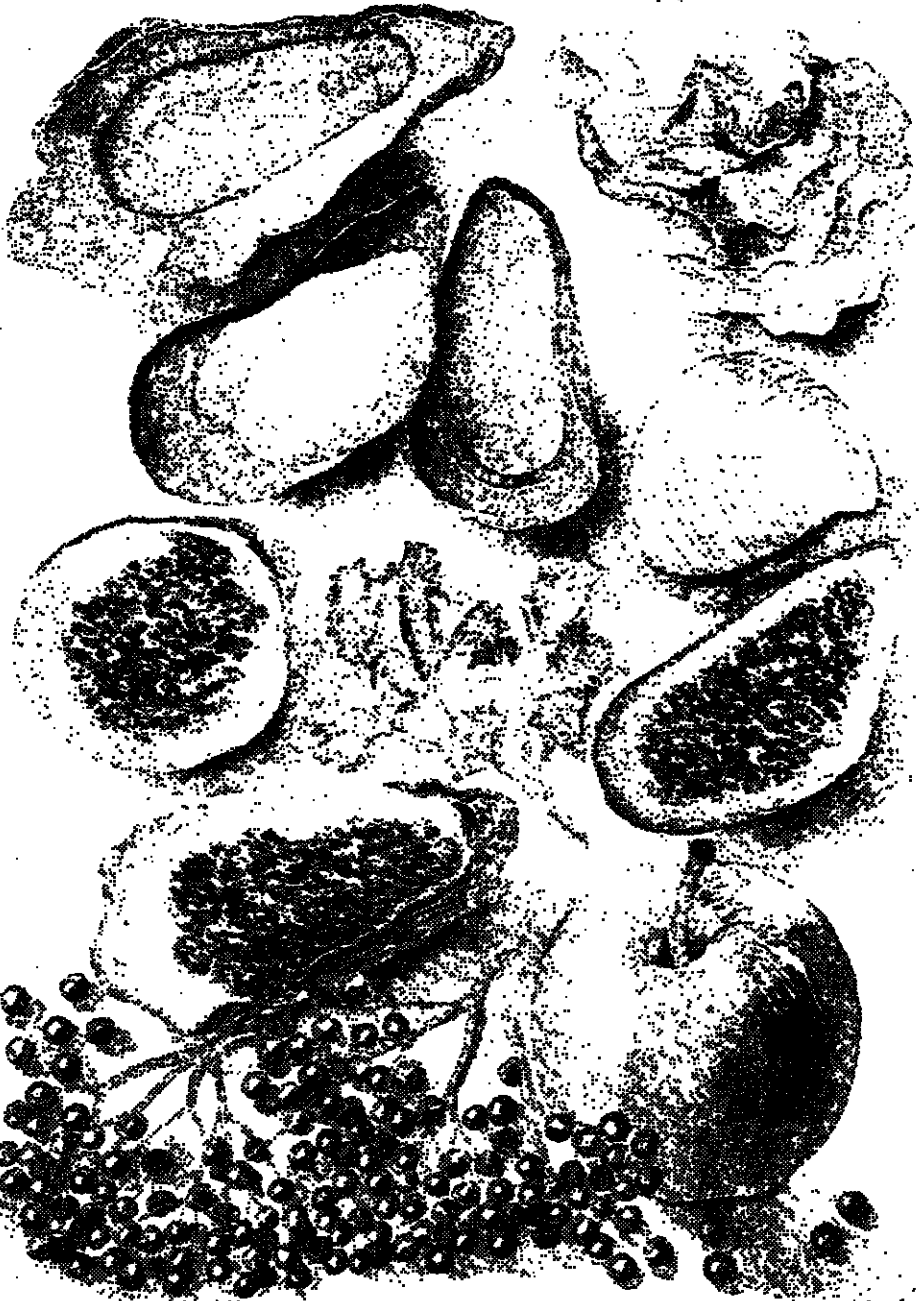
Jane MacQuitty

THE TIMES COOK

That was a summer of our content

Inspired by memories of the abundant produce for sale in a Brittany market, Frances Bissell stuffs shellfish and goes apple and blackberry hunting

Diana Leach



salt, pepper
small pinch of cayenne
pepper

Scrub the shellfish under running cold water. With a firm, short-bladed knife, prise open the shells, cutting through the muscle. Take care not to spill any of the juice, but sieve it into a basin. Mix with the rest of the ingredients to a smooth paste. Discard the top shells and divide the mixture among the dozen shells containing the mussels or oysters. Smooth the surface with the back of a knife. Arrange the stuffed shells on a baking tray. A layer of salt or sand in the tray will enable

you to balance the shells perfectly, but is not essential. Place towards the top of a preheated oven at gas mark 7, 220°C/425°F and bake for three or four minutes until the mixture is just bubbling. If you cook them for much longer, the shellfish will become tough.

This next dish is very quick and easy to make. If elderberries are not available, use blackberries, blueberries or, later in the season, cranberries. Buy either four ready prepared duck breasts or two whole ducklings and use the legs in a casserole and the carcass for soup. If you do this, it makes the duck breasts

less of an extravagance.

Duck Breasts with Elderberries
Serves 4
4 duck breasts
1/2oz/15g butter, or use a non-stick frying pan
2 shallots, peeled and chopped
4 tablespoons decent red wine
4 tablespoons stock or water
3 tablespoons elderberries
pinch of cinnamon
salt and pepper

Trim any loose sinews and fat from the meat. You can remove the skin or leave it on as you wish, but if you leave it

on, cook that side first and for a little longer than the second side. This will give you crisp, well-done skin without overcooking the duck. Melt the butter in a heavy frying pan, turn the heat up and lay the duck breasts in the pan in one layer. Cook over a high heat for a couple of minutes to seal the meat, then cook on medium heat for a further three or four minutes. Add the shallots to the pan. Turn the meat over and cook it once more on a high heat for two minutes, and then on medium heat for a few minutes more, until the meat is cooked to your liking. I think it is a pity to overcook duck, but some people do not like it served pink.

Remove the duck breasts and keep them warm while you finish the sauce. If the shallots are not yet cooked, continue cooking them on a low heat until soft. Add the wine to the frying pan and swirl it around, scraping up any bits stuck to the bottom of the pan.

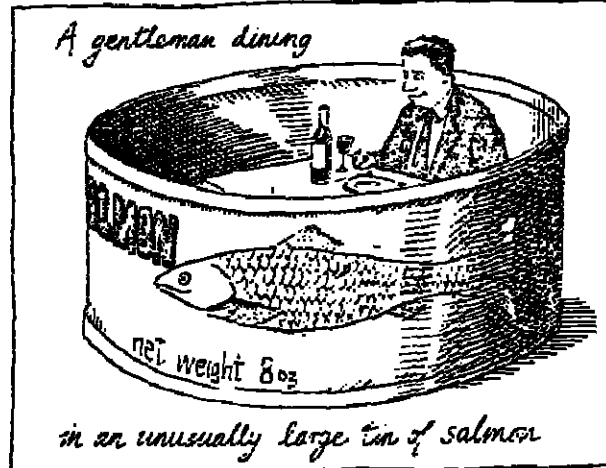
Let it cook over a fairly high heat, until reduced by half. Then add the stock or water. Cook until syrupy. Add the elderberries, cinnamon and seasoning to taste. Divide among four heated dinner plates, and serve with the duck breasts. Medallions of venison, lamb or pork fillet can be cooked the same way.

Apple and Blackberry Pancakes
Serves 4
4oz/100g plain flour
2 eggs
1oz/25g caster sugar
8fl oz/250ml skimmed milk or milk and water mixed
2 tablespoons beer, soda water or sparkling mineral water
butter for frying pancakes, or non-stick pan
6oz/175g blackberries
1/2pt/75ml water
1oz/25g butter
1/4lb/225g peeled and sliced apples

Mix the first four ingredients into a smooth batter and allow to stand for an hour. Just before cooking the pancakes, stir in the beer, soda water or sparkling mineral water to give the batter an extra lightness. You can make the blackberry sauce while the batter is resting. Cook them in water until just tender and rub them through a fine sieve into a saucepan. You may need to sweeten the sauce. Make eight large thin crêpes in a heavy frying pan and stack up. Melt the butter and fry the apples until golden. Fold a generous spoonful of apple into each crêpe, fold loosely, and serve on heated plates with some of the blackberry sauce.

EATING OUT

Francis Meadey



A gentleman dining in an unusually large tin of salmon

Changing for dinner

Jonathan Meades discovers that food can be high fashion, but you never know when the styles might change

Monsieur Thompson's conducts itself rather like a garment business at the tense end of the game where each season the range is restyled. There are of course many restaurants which do something of the sort, but none seems to respond to fashion's dictates with such alacrity and such jumpiness as this prettyish place.

The changes of cooking seem to have been achieved in lurches rather than by any sort of gentle development. You never really know what you're going to get. The time before last I came here, one summer luncheon, I ate an irreproachable piece of beef flank — the cut called *onglet* — with a wine and shallot sauce.

Last week however things were less than smooth. Maybe the chef was off that evening, like the first three wines I ordered — I don't mean that they were corked, merely that they were not available: their lack of availability being announced with a shrug and a grunt. Maybe the kitchen made a genuine mistake in serving the metallic-tasting end of a tired terrine of foie gras, but maybe it didn't — and even the replacement from a patently fresher preparation was no more than ordinary. Which was about the mark for the other dishes: scallops with a nice butter sauce and a redundant garnish of button mushrooms and unpeeled tomato; a tiny piece of beef announced as having been cooked in "po au feu", is in broth, but no such thing, and served with tasteless morsels; calf's kidney with a pistou, which is evidently house argot for pieces of burnt garlic; vegetables notable for their number rather than their quality.

The sweets cannot have been poorer than the cheeses: certainly the trifles served with coffee were the best part of an otherwise unremarkable meal. Dinner with one aperitif, two digestifs and a passable Pinot Noir from Burgundy was £72.

One suspects that not a great deal has changed in the 21 years since Chez Moi was established at the less raffish end of W11. Its appearance has been determined by a discriminate and perhaps rather theatrical eye. The walls are pink going on orange, so one might be eating inside a particularly tasteful and unusually large tin of salmon.

Which sort of salmon is definitely not used in the delicious and delicate tartare of that fish that is one of the more "modern" dishes on the otherwise mostly unmodish menu. As well as that salmon, which is prepared with capers and olive oil, I ate a rich dish of hare in a dark brown sauce that certainly included fruit and maybe chocolate; this was most enjoyable, not least for being served in the old way without accompanying vegetables.

Among the daily changing dishes was what I take to be a French borrowing from Russia: this is a sort of croquette called *kromenski*, which comprises pork, hard-boiled egg, the liver of (presumably) hare and pickled fruit, deep fried and served with a garlicky tomato sauce. The sweets are, like most of that which comes before them, generously served and uninhibited by calorific embarrassment: there was a smashing chocolate truffle cake in whose depths were to be found fruits that had been steeped in liquor, and there was a sensational lemon tart which is perhaps not to be lightly undertaken. The service is genuinely French, professional, formal, sometimes sluggish, mostly friendly: the wine waiter is notably on the ball. With a half of St Veran and a half of red Meursault and one kir the bill was £69.

Monsieur Thompson's, 29 Kensington Park Road W11 (01 727 9957); 12.30-2.30pm and 7.30-10.45pm Mon to Sat. Chez Moi, 1 Addison Avenue W11 (01 603 8267); 7.11.30pm Mon to Sat.

IN THE GARDEN

Success of a double act

Francesca Greenoak talks to two women whose books have helped shape garden design in the Eighties

Tracing the origins of style is never a precise business. All of a sudden several people seem to be doing the same thing at once, having come to it in their own way — as if there were something in the air.

Two rather redoubtable women who have had a place in shaping the gardens of the Eighties, as both practitioners and writers, are Alvide Lees-Milne and Rosemary Verey. They have already edited two books consisting of descriptions of notable modern gardens, written by the owners themselves, and on Monday a third, *The New Englishwoman's Garden*, is published by Chatto & Windus (£16.95).

The two editors work together well, partly it seems by adopting complementary roles. Mrs Lees-Milne, brisk

smart, challengingly disputatious, lays claim to intuitiveness: "I can't remember names the way Rosemary does", and unconventionality: "I do all my garden design from my bedroom window." Her passion for gardening began in 1953 when her first visit to Vita Sackville-West at Sissinghurst made her feel she had discovered "what real gardening was all about".

nd she began with fresh jeans, first at Alderley Grange and now at Badminton.

Mrs Verey, gentle, studious, knows her garden history through and through and has been known to say that you can't understand English gardening unless you know English history. Her garden at Barnsley House, however, is full of enchanting effects which are purely inspirational.

She began gardening seriously about 25 years ago when her children were away at school and when, she says, "I got bored with hunting and began to study old gardening books and herbals".

In fact, the taste and perceptions of the women are remarkably similar. They acknowledge that over the years they have learned from



Barnsley beauty: Rosemary Verey's Japanese wineberry

each other. Alvide Lees-Milne often buys some of the unusual plants introduced at Barnsley House for her garden at Badminton; Rosemary Verey adopted her friend's useful practice of having paths behind borders.

Both use box to great effect, as "punctuation marks within the garden" which is how they regard the low hedges, pyramids and roundels. Shaped bushes of the dwarf box

(*Buxus sempervirens* Suffruticosa) are ruinously expensive but it is possible to grow them yourself, trimming them to shape each June with a more gentle clipping in late summer. Small plants bought now will yield a number of cuttings which can be taken now or next March, and can be grown on in a cold frame, and planted in situ when they have rooted (for edging place about 4-in apart).

Tankards, 1/2 acre garden, island beds, autumn colour; one charge admits to both; 2-6pm.

Suffolk: St Stephens Cottage, Spexhall, 2m N of Halesworth; 1 acre, new bog, herb, and white garden; conifers, shrubs, alpine; 10am-5pm; also by appointment all year. Wiltshire: Floors Castle, Kelsall; large gardens, children's playground; P; open until September 24, 9.30am-5pm. Hereford and Worcester: Bradon Pound, Ashton-under-Lley; fine trees, shrubs, steep bank of heathers, junipers, ground cover with annuals, shrubs, roses; 2-5.30pm.

Roy May

GARDENS TO VISIT

except Sunday 2-5pm, until mid-October.

TOMORROW
Nottinghamshire: Mill Hill House, Eton Lane, East Stoke, 5m S of Newark on A46, turn E on Eton Lane; 1/2 acre plantsman's garden, mixed borders, alpine, shade plants, vegetables; 2-6pm; also open by appointment daily until end of September (E. of Stoke 460).

Avon: Two gardens at Burrington, 12m S of Bristol, 1m off A38, 3m S of Bristol Airport; Bourne House, 8 acres, paddocks, stream, water lilies, trees, shrubs, herbaceous, roses.

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THE ARTS

Dylan as deity

Reverence is a great barrier to understanding, as *Getting to Dylan* (BBC1) the first of a new Omnibus series, demonstrated. Bob Dylan's divine status in the media community, which is vastly enhanced by his disinclination to give interviews, made fools of all those who tried to coax him into behaving as a proper rock idol should.

The programme was based on Dylan's role in the forthcoming film *Hearts of Fire*, which commenced with a press conference. "Why are you so

TELEVISION

modest? Why are you pretending to be inadequate?" snarled a *Sunday Times* journalist infuriated by the god's inability to talk in quotable quotes. The photographers asked Dylan to take off his dark



Dylan: object of worship

glasses for a few shots. "Oh, c'mon," he muttered.

It was probably unconsciously that the film became a meditation on the nature of fame as the crew trailed from location to location, hopefully waiting for the deity to grant them an interview. To kill time, they talked to the director, the late Richard Marquand; they ignored the other rock luminaries in the film but asked Rupert Everett why he was doing the movie. "Because Christophe Lambert turned it down and I'd do *Coronation Street* to work with Bob," was the succinct reply.

Finally they were admitted to the divine presence. The programme's producer doubling as interviewer, Christopher Sykes, unflinchingly presented himself in a foolish light in the awesome audience. Dylan was mildly defensive, perfectly straightforward and resolutely without pretension. His reward for resisting the postures required of the famous seemed to be spiritual integrity and nourishing personal relationships. There is, of course, a Dylan song, "Trust Yourself", which already says it all and to which he patiently referred us.

Celia Brayfield

The real Booker contest will be among the publishers this year, writes Bryan Appleyard



Past winners who could well be in the running again: From left, Thomas Keneally, William Golding, V. S. Naipaul, Fay Weldon and Anita Brookner.

Place your bets . . .

You may think it is the novels that count in the Booker Prize short list, to be announced on Wednesday. Forget it. This year, more than ever, it is the delicate network of sensibilities of the agents, authors and publishers. For, whoever wins, the 1987 Booker is about to go down as the contest between Booker McConnell PLC and the whole fiction-publishing industry.

The reason is the curious structure of our most profitable and fraught artistic award. This is its 20th year. How it began is a problem in itself. One version says Ian Fleming suggested it to the international trading company in the late Sixties. Booker was making money out of authors' royalties and Fleming felt the company ought to give something back to fiction. Another version says that Tom "you can quote me" Maschler of Jonathan Cape thought of the idea.

Either way, Booker now gives £15,000 to the winning author, who can also expect additional royalties from an increase in sales of the winning novel of between 35,000 and 100,000 copies.

Winning the Booker counts, but the problem is how to win it. In the past, the method of identifying entries has involved publishers submitting four novels and a "2nd XI" list of other potential contenders. The judges read the four and call in any of the 2nd XI that catch their eye.

This year it has been different. The "1st XI" list has been reduced to three and, apparently, not a single additional book has been called in. The reason is a letter written to publishers by Michael Caine, chairman of Booker, in January.

Caine said: "I am getting increasingly concerned both at

the publicity given to publishers entering their second eleven books in the sure knowledge that the judges will call in the first eleven, and at the growing reluctance of a number of potential judges to serve because of the high overall total of books to be read."

He wanted publishers only to submit in their main list those books they thought were serious contenders. In saying this he was taking on none other than Maschler. Over 19 years, Maschler had evolved quite specific Booker tactics. His 1st XI would be Cape's real 2nd XI and his real winners would be in the 2nd XI which he knew he could rely on the judges to call in.

In this way, Maschler would effectively submit six or seven Cape books for the prize. For a publisher, the charm of this method is that he reduces the number of irate authors and agents he would have to face. The list of books submitted is annually leaked to the trade magazine *The Bookseller* and immediately afterwards publishers have to soothe all the

wounded egos of those they have not submitted. Maschler is unrepentant. His tactics are based on the view that the Booker system is unfair to big, serious fiction publishers like Cape and will not necessarily produce the most deserving winner.

He explained: "In a year we have, say, six or seven contenders," he explained. "Some publishers have one or none. It is ridiculous that they should be allowed to put forward as many books as we." Cape, he pointed out, is one of half a dozen serious fiction publishers in the country. Why should that put the company at a disadvantage? If, he warned, Booker persists in this policy "they could spoil the prize".

Unfortunately for Maschler, his stand is not supported by other publishers. Matthew Evans, chairman of Faber & Faber, replied to Caine's January letter with a suggestion that the organizers of the

competition — the Book Trust — should call the publishers' bluff. "I think," he wrote to Caine, "that perhaps the only reason why publishers use the device you describe in your letter is to keep authors and literary agents happy."

Evans's point was that authors regarded being submitted in the first place as the award of a mini-Booker Prize and the system of two XIs removed the responsibility from publishers and made life harder for the judges. No titles, Evans suggested, should therefore be called in.

And that seems to be what has happened. This year's judges — the novelist Alan Massie, the Channel 4 newscaster Trevor McDonald, the critic Selina Hastings and the IBA's director of radio, John Thompson, under the chairmanship of the crime writer P. D. James — have had to read around 90 novels, compared with the 120-plus in previous years. Attempts by individual judges to call in other titles, such as James Buchan's *Davy Chadwick*,

have run into blank refusals from the committee as a whole. For Maschler, this represents a betrayal of the whole concept of the prize. The idea is to find the best novel, not simply the best of those submitted by publishers.

In the event it looks as though this year Maschler may have been caught out. He is dutifully keeping quiet about the contents of Cape's 1st and 2nd XIs, but obvious contenders from his list are Doris Lessing, Ian McEwan, Brian Moore, Anita Brookner, Russell Hoban and Lisa St Aubin de Teran.

In the meantime a total of seven previous Booker winners have books out this year — Brookner (*A Friend from England*), Iris Murdoch (*The Book and the Brotherhood*), William Golding (*Close Quarters*), Bernard Rubens (*Our Father*), V. S. Naipaul (*The Enigma of Arrival*), Thomas Keneally (*The Playmaker*) and Stanley Middleton (*After a Fashion*). There are also strong contenders from Peter Ackroyd (*Chatterton*), J. G. Ballard (*The Day of Creation*), William Boyd (*The New Confessions*), and Fay Weldon (*The Heavens and Lives of Men*).

Attempts at forecasting based on the composition of the jury lead to the possibility of a fairly conservative selection — even, given James as chairman, that this might be the year for a genre novel to triumph at last — perhaps Ruth Rendell, for instance, writing as Barbara Vine with *A Fatal Inversion*. "I think," an anonymous member of the jury says, "we'll come up with a sensible choice that people will actually want to read." On the whole, though, betting on three cherries in Caesar's Palace is probably more susceptible to rational analysis.

(Times Newspapers Ltd 1987)

HISTORY OF BOOKER PRIZEWINNERS AND PUBLISHERS

Year	Author	Title	Publisher
1969	P H Newby	Something to Answer For	Faber & Faber
1970	Bernice Rubens	The Elected Member	Eyre & Spottiswoode
1971	V S Naipaul	In a Free State	Andre Deutsch
1972	John Berger	G	Weidenfeld & Nicolson
1973	J G Farrell	The Siege of Krishnapur	Weidenfeld & Nicolson
1974	Nadine Gordimer	The Conservationist	Cape
1975	Ruth Praver Jhabvala	Heat and Dust	Cape
1976	David Storey	Saville	Cape
1977	Paul Scott	Staying On	Heinemann
1978	Iris Murdoch	The Sea, The Sea	Chatto & Windus
1979	Penelope Fitzgerald	Offshore	Collins
1980	William Golding	Rites of Passage	Faber & Faber
1981	Salman Rushdie	Midnight's Children	Cape
1982	Thomas Keneally	Schindler's Ark	Hodder & Stoughton
1983	J M Coetzee	Life & Times of Michael K	Secker & Warburg
1984	Anita Brookner	Hotel du Lac	Cape
1985	Karl Huelse	The Bone People	Hodder & Stoughton
1986	Kingsley Amis	The Old Devils	Hutchinson

Samurai at gates of Glamis

THEATRE

Macbeth
Lyttelton

Some 20 years ago, the late Liam Miller directed a Dublin production of Yeats's *The Dreaming of the Bones* in the Japanese manner; it being his opinion that this fable of two royal murderers (with strong echoes of the Macbeths) whose ghosts are condemned to a perpetual re-enactment of their crime, marked a perfect point of convergence between the Western imagination and the Japanese Noh drama.

I doubt whether news of this experiment found its way to Yukio Ninagawa, but his production of *Macbeth* — which reaches the Lyttelton after its triumphant 1985 appearance in Edinburgh — translates Miller's vision into a majestically accomplished fact.

Kappa Senoh's setting is a Buddhist shrine attended by two ancient women who roll back the doors, releasing the spirits of the dead, and sit placidly eating as the eternal story unfolds, covering their eyes and ears at passages they find too painful to experience.

The shrine is further protected by a semi-transparent latticed wall through which we get a distanced first view of the witches, and the all-important image of a cherry tree whose white blossoms drifts delicately down as a forecast of the very start of mortality and bloodshed to come.

The production has three depths of focus: for stage reality; dream-like glimpses through the lattice work; and the full depth of the stage where the main action is played out in 16th century samurai costume.

Ninagawa's art is largely one of transition and surprise: association; switching between point-blank and long-distance view points, and setting horrendously violent events within a delicately lyrical environment. The purpose is not simply to shock the spectator into attention. It is rather to place a particular story in the context of eternity; so that a present tense action takes on the pathos of time long passed. The prevailing atmosphere is one of intense melancholy; generated partly by Masato Kabi's re-scoring of Fauré and Samuel Barber, and of Baroque dances which proceed gravely amid the sound of thunder and temple gongs.

A non-Japanese speaker is on uncertain ground in judging the quality of the Shakespearean acting. Certain rigid conventions apply. Messengers always speak at high speed and in evident terror for their lives. Kings (including the saintly Duncan) throw their vocal weight about. And the principals repeatedly respond to major turning points in the action in tones that give precious little away. There is, nevertheless, a fearsome change in Tsukayama's Macbeth from the bright world of the black-robed tyrant who assumes the armoured throne. Far more emotionally shocking is the change that overtakes Komaki Kurihara as his wife — who begins by using all the arts of submission and allure to get her way only later to be seen hurling away her mirror and make-up once the penalties of the killing have started driving them apart.

For once, you see the Macbeths in separate distress, before they come together and put on a display of confidence. In the sleep walking scene, a terrifyingly alert Kurihara arrives on the stage — her candle winking through the lattice — makes up long since discarded, and embarking on the hand-washing speech with the glacial vibrato of an unappeased ghost straight from the Noh drama.

When we next see Macbeth he is in the centre of a ring of candle flame, delivering the "Tomorrow" speech as he cradles the dream of his dead wife. In direct Shakespearean terms, this is a sentimental misreading. In terms of this production, it is one of the magic points where present and memory coincide.

The central theme of deception is also masterfully explored through the misty-focus set, from which Ninagawa continues to extract surprises throughout the evening. Viewed through the transparent walls, objects and figures take on a glamour which vanishes when directly exposed.

Macbeth himself bears a charmed life for as long as he remains within the dream territory, but is doomed once he faces MacDuff on the naked stage. The greatest single image comes at the moment — before his defeat — when the lattice parts and, for the first time, we get an unobstructed view of the cherry tree, dazzlingly white, shedding its fatal blossom on him.

Irving Wardle

Fishing for Bizet's pearls

Philip Prowse is setting the stage for the ENO's new *Pearl Fishers*, but he has no illusions about the dramatic worth of the 'Mills & Boon' opera

In the Rosebery Avenue days Bizet's *The Pearl Fishers* was a distinctly popular item in the ENO repertoire. Perhaps it was because the famed duet used to roll up regularly on *Housewives' Choice*, usually sung by Björling and Merrill. Perhaps we were less demanding then about the dramatic content of our operas. Certainly the plot devised by Carré and Cormon of the rivalry between Zurga (boss of Ceylon's pearl fishers) and Nadir (pearl fisher turned hunter) for the favours of the chaste priestess Leila is no masterpiece.

Whatever the cause, *The Pearl Fishers* fell out of favour. Tonight's new production will be its first performance at the Coliseum. The ENO has turned to Philip Prowse to do the staging, his first for the company although he did design *Don Giovanni* here for Jonathan Miller. Some time ago the name of John Copley was mooted for this piece, so did Prowse choose *The Pearl Fishers* for his first London opera or was it the other way round?

"I chose me." The answer is characteristically laconic, honest and brief. Some directors pretend to find no blemishes in the work they are currently concerned with. Not Philip Prowse. "You can scarcely claim that *Pearl Fishers* opens the door on to Freud. It is rather the Mills & Boon of its time. If E. Phillips Oppenheim had written about the Indian Ocean then he might have turned out something like this."

So does he intend to elevate it to the level of Collins, say, or Heinemann?

"I don't think we can talk in publishing terms. Let's say that I've introduced a European element to reflect the soigné, graceful style of Bizet's score. I start with what I hear and then I try to make it real to me. The composer or the playwright has created a world, peopled it, devised its laws. It is not his job to visualize it, but mine. And I should add that I am not interested in total subjugation of self."

So Monday's audience will find that Prowse places *Pêcheurs* in a 19th century context as he did with *Aida* for Opera North last year, which turned out to be as big a

success as Gilbert Deffo's similar attempt for Scottish Opera this week emerged as cold turkey. But will the designs reflect life in old Ceylon before the Tamils became troublesome?

"I'm afraid Ceylon, old or new, is totally unreal to me. Do you think that Bizet was interested in it? No, he saw a place where women were so free of pleasure and wrote music to match. The sets are based on India, which has a much greater visual tradition. How-



Philip Prowse: "I'm afraid Ceylon is totally unreal to me"

ever, true perhaps to the spirit of E. Phillips Oppenheim I will promise you a reference to *Bette Davis*."

Philip Prowse spent the first part of his life as a designer, working virtually non-stop for the Citizen's Theatre in Glasgow. It was not until 1973 that he decided to direct as well. The trademarks are often walls and buildings in sombre colours, grey frequently preferred, which stretch the full height of the stage. Man is cut down to size by his surround-

ings. Prowse regards himself as "an architectural designer — I don't really understand nature".

Opera came to him professionally quite late. While he was at the Slade he haunted the upper reaches of Covent Garden. "Christoff... Calas... Gobbi. They seemed to be there every night, so that was where you went for excitement. Then there were the Zeffirelli productions, which to me were a revelation, especially *Lucia*, which was absolutely true to itself. You see Franco begins with how it sounds."

When the Prowse base moved to Glasgow his opera going declined and it was not until 1982 that he tried his hand at directing it. The choice was a strange one: Handel's *Tamerlano* for the WNO. Prowse claimed that he was given it because it is rare among Handel operas in having no comic relief whatsoever. He responded by covering the stage with the victims of war, who might have come from his beloved Webster and Tourneur. There was a pervading feeling of malevolence and disregard for human life that was totally Jacobean.

Since then most of his lyric work has been for Opera North. Apart from that *Aida* there has been a *Threepenny Opera*, which he admits to being rather pleased with, and Richard Strauss's *Daphne*, which he, to use his own words, "totally screwed up".

He is in his early fifties, remarkably well preserved, with eyes that constantly promise mischief and provocation. It is right in character that he describes the list of operas that he would like to direct, left with the general administrator of Opera North, as "very esoteric and well laden with elaborate melodramas". For one whose love of the theatre was first inspired by the *Brook Measure for Measure* at Stratford and Third Programme broadcasts of Jacobean tragedy, personal taste has not changed too much over the years. A reasonable forecast is that when Philip Prowse has finished with the shores of Sri Lanka he will turn his attention to the Venice Lagoon and stage *La Gioconda*.

John Higgins

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WINDS OF LOVE scenes and music of Gluck — **BOX 1** BIG WORDS, SMALL WORLD with David Lodge, Jacques Derrida, Raymond Williams and Edward Said — **BOX 2** Verdi's RIGOLETTO — **BOX 3** NATURALLY CREATIVE Hockney, biologists and dancers — **BOX 4** Mozart's MITRIDATE — **BOX 5** EDUARDO PAOLOZZI sculptor and surrealist — **BOX 6** Rossini's THE BARBER OF SEVILLE — **BOX 7** VITA FUTURISTA Marinetti's love affair with fast cars — **BOX 8** THE MAN WHO MISTOOK HIS WIFE FOR A HAT Nymen and Sacks' neurological opera — **BOX 9** LA CENERENTOLA Rossini's panto-opera — plus BOOK CHOICE every Friday

THE ARTS THIS AUTUMN ON CHANNEL 4

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THE WEEK AHEAD



FILMS

SHOOTING GALLERY: Nick Nolte, often on the wrong side of the law, proudly wears a sheriff's badge in *Extreme Prejudice* (18), an action film directed by Walter Hill in the Sam Peckinpah manner, with improbable carnage galore and some specific echoes of *The Wild Bunch*. Powers Boothe plays Nolte's adversary in the Texan border town — a drug king who was once a childhood friend. They also have a girlfriend in common. Cannon Haymarket (01-839 1527), Cannon Prince Charles (01-437 8181), from Friday.



TELEVISION

OUT OF AFRICA: Danny Glover (left) and Alfre Woodard star as Nelson and Winnie Mandela in *Mandela*, a drama by Ronald Harwood about the black South African leader and his wife who have been in the forefront of the campaign against apartheid. The film goes back to 1952, when Mandela establishes the first black legal practice in the central white district of Johannesburg, and covers his subsequent courtship of Winnie and imprisonment in the wake of the Sharpeville massacre. Channel 4, Thursday, 9-11.50pm.



THEATRE

DANGER MAN: Dinsdale Landen follows his recent, sympathetic roles by playing a mysterious, possibly psychopathic, stranger menacing a married couple in *Dangerous Obsession*, a thriller by N.J. Crisp, which has its world premiere at Bromley this week and will tour briefly before arriving in the West End. Roger Smith directs Landen, Carol Drinkwater and Jeremy Child in the piece. Churchill Theatre, High Street, Bromley, Kent (01-460 5677). Charity gala preview Tuesday. Opens Wednesday. Until October 10.



ROCK

TEARS OF A CLOWN: Loudon Wainwright III has tended to be regarded as something of a novelty act. However, the current album, *More Love Songs*, and his excellent performances in London last October, suggest that the New York singer/songwriter with the lyrical blend of wit and sadness has hit a winning streak. With interest in folk at a high level, he has chosen a timely moment to embark on a lengthy tour. Tuesday, Corn Exchange, Ipswich (0473 215544); Thursday, St George's Hall, Bradford (0274 752000).



BOOKS

CHURCH MILITANT: Brian Moore's latest novel *The Colour of Blood* (Cape, £10.95, September 24) is a thriller set in the Soviet bloc. For years the cardinal has managed to maintain peaceful relations between the Marxist government and his Church. But shortly before a vital public speech, the cardinal's life is threatened, and the security police arrive to remove him from public view, for his own "protection". This is a powerful and topical novel of suspense, which draws a man and his calling into startling political light.



OPERA

BIZET BODY: Valerie Masterson has had some of her biggest successes in 19th century French opera: Gounod's *Marguerite and Bézart* and Micaëla among them. On Monday she tackles another Bizet lady — Leila, the Sinhalese priestess in *The Pearl Fishers*. The opera has been absent from the ENO repertoire since its Sadler's Wells days; this new production, conducted by Sir Charles Mackerras, marks the centenary of its first London production. Coliseum, St Martins Lane, London WC2 (01-836 3161).

THEATRE LONDON

'ALLO, 'ALLO: All the principals return in Jeremy Lloyd and David Croft's farce, taken from the BBC television series. Prince of Wales (01-839 5967). Opens Tues.

BLUES IN THE NIGHT: Song and dance show with a cast of four, dominated by Carol Woods. Piccadilly (01-437 4506). Previews Wed, Thurs, Fri, Sep 26. Opens Sept 28.

DEFINITELY THE BAHAMAS: Alec McCowen directs John Moffatt in a Martin Crimp play, 1986 Radio Times Drama Award winner. The Orange Tree, New Road, Richmond, Surrey (01-940 3633). Preview Thurs. Opens Fri.

HAMLET MACHINE: Robert Wilson directs a collaboration between the resident company and Heriot Watt Theatre Foundation, written by East German Meiner Müller. A "meditation on Hamlet and a myriad of other subjects". Almeida (01-359 4404). Fri and Sep 25 only.

JOB ROCKING: Commissioned play by reggae poet Benjamin Zephaniah, featuring Victor Romero Evans. Riverside Studios (01-748 3354). From Wed. Press night Thurs.

LEARN'S DAUGHTERS: The Women's Theatre Group on a national tour with Elaine Feinstein's view of Goneril, Regan and Cordelia. Gwenda Hughes directs. Battersea Arts Centre (01-223 2233). From Wed. Press night Thurs. Until Sep 27.

MEDEA: Ninagawa Company (Tokyo) in three performances of a Japanese translation of the Euripides play. Olivier (01-828 2252). Thurs at 7pm, Fri and Sep 26 at 7.15pm.

OUT OF TOWN

BIRMINGHAM: A Chorus Line: Touring production of the Michael Bennett musical. Hamlet/Edward Klean musical. Alexandra (021 643 1231). Opens Mon, until Oct 10.

DERRY: Pentecost: Premiere of a five-act play by Steward Parker, set during 1974 Ulster Workers Council strike. Guildhall (0604 280515). Opens Wed, until Sept 26.

LANCASTER: It's a Girl: Musical comedy by John Burrows and Andy Whitfield, set in an ante-natal class. Dukes (0524 66645). Preview Wed, opens Thurs.

SALISBURY: Sanctuary: Premiere of Joint Stock's latest show, written by Ralph Brown. Paulette Randall directs on "upbeat" study of homelessness and why people join hippie convoys. Playhouse, Salisbury Theatre (0722 20333). Opens Wed. Until Oct 10.

GALLERIES

CY TWOMBLY: First major British exhibition for this American artist, best known for making pencil marks and automatic writing on large canvases. Whitechapel Art Gallery, London E1 (01-377 0107). From Fri.

PALACES OF CULTURE: Six artists, including sculptor Zadok Ben-David and painter Mark Wallinger, exhibit works examining the role played by museums in modern life. City Museum and Art Gallery, Stoke-on-Trent (0782 202173). From today.

INTRODUCING WITH PLEASURE: Paintings and sculpture selected from the Art Council's collection. Royal Festival Hall, London SE1 (01-928 3191). From Tues.

RALPH BROWN AND PHILLIP SUTTON: Bronze sculptures of nude girls and colourfully decorative paintings. Royal Festival Hall, London SE1 (01-928 3191). From Tues.

ARTIST AS MODEL: An impressive collection of portrait prints, including works by Augustus John and Gerald Brockhurst. Garton & Cooke, London W1 (01-493 2820). From Wed.

FRANS WILDERBERG: Paintings of mythical subjects.

THEATRE LONDON

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DERRY: Pentecost: Premiere of a five-act play by Steward Parker, set during 1974 Ulster Workers Council strike. Guildhall (0604 280515). Opens Wed, until Sept 26.

LANCASTER: It's a Girl: Musical comedy by John Burrows and Andy Whitfield, set in an ante-natal class. Dukes (0524 66645). Preview Wed, opens Thurs.

SALISBURY: Sanctuary: Premiere of Joint Stock's latest show, written by Ralph Brown. Paulette Randall directs on "upbeat" study of homelessness and why people join hippie convoys. Playhouse, Salisbury Theatre (0722 20333). Opens Wed. Until Oct 10.

GALLERIES

CY TWOMBLY: First major British exhibition for this American artist, best known for making pencil marks and automatic writing on large canvases. Whitechapel Art Gallery, London E1 (01-377 0107). From Fri.

PALACES OF CULTURE: Six artists, including sculptor Zadok Ben-David and painter Mark Wallinger, exhibit works examining the role played by museums in modern life. City Museum and Art Gallery, Stoke-on-Trent (0782 202173). From today.

INTRODUCING WITH PLEASURE: Paintings and sculpture selected from the Art Council's collection. Royal Festival Hall, London SE1 (01-928 3191). From Tues.

RALPH BROWN AND PHILLIP SUTTON: Bronze sculptures of nude girls and colourfully decorative paintings. Royal Festival Hall, London SE1 (01-928 3191). From Tues.

ARTIST AS MODEL: An impressive collection of portrait prints, including works by Augustus John and Gerald Brockhurst. Garton & Cooke, London W1 (01-493 2820). From Wed.

FRANS WILDERBERG: Paintings of mythical subjects.

RADIO

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SATURDAY

TELEVISION AND RADIO

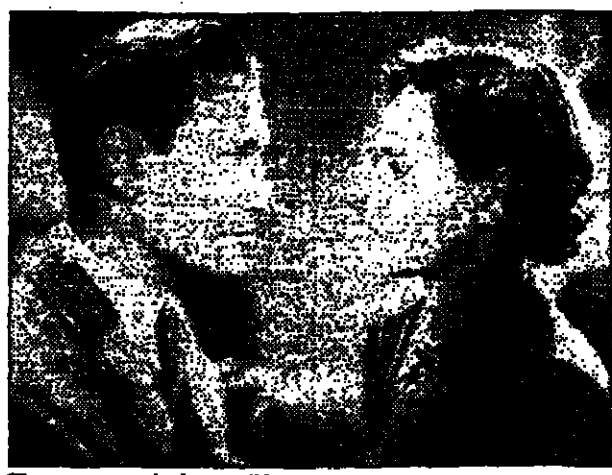
Compiled by Peter Dear and Jane Rackham

SUNDAY

● Tears, laughter, fears and rage (Channel 4, 6.30pm) is an unusual series which attempts to investigate our emotions. The first programme is about crying, why we do it, whether we do it enough and what function it fulfils. There is nothing like a child for getting to the heart of the matter and when one young lad says people cry because they are not happy, and that crying helps them to feel better, he has almost said it all. But Sally Potter, who devised and directed the series, is not content to let the subject rest there, grilling celebrities like Michael Caine, Hanif Kureishi, Paul Bostang and Irene Handl on not just the

reasons for crying but its wider cultural aspects, and particularly why shedding tears should seem natural for women but taboo for men (not for nothing did Sally Potter make the feminist film, *Goldiggers*). The discussion is illustrated with a string of movie clips, from Powell's *The Red Shoes* to Kurosawa's *My Beautiful Laundrette*, reminding us along the way that even in that most trenchant study of suppressed emotion, *Brief Encounter*, Celia Johnson does finally break down and have a little weep.

Peter Waymark

Close to tears? Trevor Howard and Celia Johnson in the 1946 film *Brief Encounter*, a study of suppressed emotionJacob Epstein, a provocative modern who shocked the conventional art world (*Rebel Angel*, ITV, 10.30pm)

● After Jacob Epstein's "Rebel Angel" was unveiled in Hyde Park in 1923, an artist whose fame has been less enduring took a soap box at Speaker's Corner and launched into a 12-hour non-stop denunciation of the work. It was the story of Epstein's life. The conventional art world found itself shocked and unable to come to terms with his graphic sexuality and brutal power. Even the supposedly libertarian French asked that he castrate, or add a fig leaf to the Oscar Wilde memorial in Paris. Epstein's ultimate humiliation was having his "Adam" and "Genesis" pa-

raded in Blackpool as seaside attractions. Yet as Catherine Collis's crisp, informative and unpretentious film, *Rebel Angel* (ITV, 10.30pm) makes clear, Epstein was not just a provocative modern but a vivid portraitist who had the rich and famous (Joseph Conrad, Shaw, Haile Selassie) queuing up to be sculpted. Anti-Semitism, however, dogged him to the end. When it was proposed that he should be asked to create the sculpture of St Michael and the Devil for the new Coventry Cathedral, one of the committee mumbled, "but he's a Jew". So, pointed out Sir Basil Spence, was Christ.

P.W.

BBC1

- 6.45 Open University.
6.50 Dudley Do-Right 6.55
Sally Potter (r). 3.00 It's
Wicked! Last
programme of the series
10.55 The Pink
Panther Show (r).
11.15 Film: Captain Scarlett
(1933 b/w) starring
Richard Greene.
Following the Napoleonic
Wars, Captain Scarlett
returns to France to do
battle with the evil
Duke of Orleans.
Directed by Thomas
H. Carr 12.27 Weather.
12.30 Grandstand
introduced by Steve
Ryder. The line-up is:
12.35 Football Focus;
1.00 News; 1.05
Tennis: highlights of the
US Open men's and
women's singles final; 1.40, 2.05
and 3.05 Water Ski-
ing: the KP World Water
Skiing Championships; 1.55,
2.25, 2.55 and 3.25
Racing from Newbury;
3.35 and 4.30
Boxing: recapping the ACU
Championships; 3.50
Half-time; 4.00
Table Tennis: the Leeds
Masters; 4.40 Final
Score.
5.05 News and weather
5.15 Regional news/
sport.
5.20 Telly Harris Cartoon.
5.45 Telly Harris.
The Glass family from South
meets the Milsons of
Cardiff.
6.15 "Alio" Rami still
has to steal a vintage
plane (r). (Ceefax)
6.30 Bob's Full House.
(Ceefax)
7.25 The Russ Abbot
Show. (Ceefax)
7.55 Casuality. Alcoholism
and drunken driving are
among the problems
faced by the Casuality
staff. (Ceefax)
8.45 News, sport and
weather.
9.00 Film: A Bridge Too Far
(1977) starring Dirk
Bogarde, James
Caan, Michael Caine and
Sean Connery.
Second World War drama
about an Allied plan to
parachute 25,000 troops
into the Netherlands
to capture key bridges
linking the country to
Germany. Shown to
commemorate the
anniversary of the battle
of Arnhem. Directed
by Richard Attenborough.
(Ceefax)
11.50 John Peel's Flying
Circus (r).
12.20 Championship Darts.
Highlights of the day's
play in the Unipart
British Professional
Championship.
12.50 Weather.

Radio

- MW (medium wave). Stereo on
VHF (see below).
News on the hour until 1.00pm.
6.30, 7.30, 8.30 and 12.00
midnight.
6.00 Adrian John 6.00 Peter
Sewell 10.00 Dave Lee Travis
1.00pm Adrian John 2.00 The
Stereo Sequence with Johnnie
Walker including 2.00-3.00 My
Top Ten (Simon Le) 3.00-4.00
The New American Chart Show
(Laura Gross) 6.30-7.30 In
Concert (Del Fuegos in London,
and Long Ryders in Newcastle)
7.30 Simon Mayo 8.30-12.00
Midnight Flyer Show
VHF Stereo Radio 1 and 2-
7.00 London 12.00 News 1.00
Radio 1 7.30-4.00am AS Radio 2

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WORLD SERVICE

- All times in GMT. Add an hour for BST.
6.00am News 6.30 News 7.00 News
7.30 News 8.00 News 8.30 News
9.00 News 9.30 News 10.00 News
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Plans for water sell-off attacked

Mr Norton, who has owned Panacea since 1981, said with relief: "It was very much a case of fingers crossed. We were hoping to get the boat back in one piece — she meant a lot to us."



The Chinook helicopter lifting the Panacea from the Dorset rocks at the start of her airborne journey to Yarmouth, Isle of Wight, where she arrived (below) last night to undergo inspection and repairs. (Top photograph: Graham Wood).

water companies to provide shareholders with dividends."

In the distance, poor mad Greave ran round in circles.

He called for more genuine

had been pressed to make

1966	2.51	4.7	3.2
When-on-Size	11.07	3.7	11.2

net wt 1m-3.200g



murder
Poison

150-11-11

PART 2

THE TIMES

BUSINESS AND FINANCE 25-29
SPORT 42-46

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 19 1987

Executive Editor
Kenneth Fleet

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share
1833.2 (+21.2)
FT-SE 100
2328.3 (+23.8)
Bargains
40276 (36407)
USM (Datastream)
217.05 (+1.76)

THE POUND

US dollar
1.5565 (+0.0095)
W German mark
2.9892 (-0.0001)
Trade-weighted
73.3 (+0.1)

Morrison makes call for £45m

Record pretax profits from William Morrison Supermarkets for the half-year to August 1 - up from £9.6 million to £11.6 million - yesterday accompanied a placing and open offer of 5% per cent convertible preference shares raising £45 million net of expenses.
The 46,658,142 £1 shares will be issued at par, on the basis of one convertible share for every two ordinary shares held.
An interim dividend of 0.5p (0.4p) was declared.
The issue will fund the Bradford-based group's expansion. Mr Ken Morrison, the chairman, anticipates "another excellent year".
Tempos, page 27

Go-ahead for four takeovers

Four proposed takeovers were yesterday given the go-ahead. They are: News America Holdings' acquisition of Harper & Row Publishers; William Collins' purchase of 50 per cent of Harper & Row; Futuracene's buy of RTW Pacific Basin Investment Trust; and the takeover of some assets of Engineering and Chemical Supplies (Food Phosphates) by Albright & Wilson.

£100m TV ads

Advertisement revenue of the independent television companies for August totalled £100,105,343 against £98,562,980 in July and £83,859,534 in August last year.

SUMMARY

STOCK MARKETS

New York	Dow Jones	2537.37 (+9.47)
Tokyo	Nikkei Average	24844.84 (+10.47)
Hong Kong	Hang Seng	3649.98 (+78.80)
Amsterdam	Gen	308.2 (-0.9)
Sydney	AO	2305.5 (+21.5)
Frankfurt	Commerzbank	1973.1 (-13.3)
Brussels	General	5114.5 (-27.9)
Paris	CAC	4292 (+3.4)
Zurich	SKA Gen	606.40 (+0.70)
London	FT-30 All-Share	1833.2 (+21.2)
FT-100		2328.3 (+23.8)
Gold		389.2 (-0.5)
FT Fixed Interest		91.96 (-0.06)
FT Govt Secs		86.65 (+0.73)
Recent Issues	Page 26	
Closing prices	Page 29	

MAIN PRICE CHANGES

RISER:		
Spring Ram	531p (+25p)	
A McAlpine	582p (+25p)	
BICC	423p (+10p)	
British Aerospace	403p (+10p)	
AB Electronic	450p (+36p)	
Marina Devs	640p (+20p)	
Trinity Trust	920p (+40p)	
Euclatbus	850p (+40p)	
BAT Inds	687p (+18p)	
ICI	1520p (+20p)	
Assoc. Brit Ports	640p (+25p)	
PAO	627p (+16p)	
Sale Timey	370p (+17p)	
WPP Holdings	853p (+20p)	
Minet Holdings	433p (+16p)	
British Comm	514p (+17p)	
MAI	704p (+20p)	

FALLS:		
Saatchi & Saatchi	594p (-25p)	
Telecom Jersey	233p (-20p)	
Reckitts	1080p (-25p)	
Prices are as at 4pm		

INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Base: 10%
3-month interbank 10 1/4-10 1/2%
3-month eligible bills 9 3/4-9 1/2%
buying rate
US Prime Rate 8 1/4%
Federal Funds 6 1/4-6 1/2%
3-month Treasury Bills 6 43-6 42%
30-year bonds 9 3/4-9 3/8%

CURRENCIES

London:	New York:
£: \$1.5565	£: \$1.5565
£: DM1.9892	£: DM1.9892
£: Sfr2.4785	£: Sfr2.4785
£: FF6.9597	£: FF6.9597
£: Yen236.13	£: Yen236.13
£: Index72.9	£: Index72.9
ECU £0.89437	SDR £0.785559

GOLD

London Fixing:	
AM \$461.35 pm \$461.70	
£: \$1.5565	
278.75	
New York:	
Comex \$460.80-461.30	

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Oct) pm \$18.35-18.45	
Denotes latest trading price	
Stock Market 26	Commodities 27
Wall Street 26	Tempos 27
Money Markets 26	Unit Trusts 26
Foreign Exch 26	USM Prices 26
Traded Oils 26	Share Prices 26

Conran shake-up prompts walkout by leading executives

Top men quit Storehouse

By Cliff Feltham
Two top executives of the Storehouse retail chain, which is under threat of a takeover by the Mountleigh property group, have walked out after a big management shake-up by Sir Terence Conran, the chairman.
The sudden departures follow a decision by Sir Terence to look outside for a managing director - a job he has been doing himself since the merger between British Home Stores and Habitat in late 1985.
This prompted the resignation of Mr Denis Cassidy, who is deputy chairman and chief executive of BHS, the largest part of the business. He had always expected to get the new job, which would have made him the effective successor to Sir Terence. His assistant managing director at BHS, Mr Colin Williams, also quit in protest. Mr Cassidy, who was on a three-year contract and earning around £120,000 a year, stands to get hefty compensation.
Three other retail giants have emerged as significant shareholders in Storehouse. They are all considered keen to take parts of the group if it is broken up by Mr Tony Clegg's Mountleigh. Sears has 7.2 million shares (1.8 per cent), Woolworth 4.5 million (1 per cent), and Burton Group 2 million (a half per cent).
Sir Terence said: "We have not been forced into anything. For some time I have been considering who would succeed me when I retire. There were discussions over whether Mr Cassidy should become group managing director, but eventually we decided to go outside. This was bad news for Denis. He was upset and I am sorry he made the decision to resign. But we felt it was important to find a younger man, so I can work alongside someone for the next four or five years before I retire. I told him of this two weeks ago and he said in that case he would have to go. The parting has been very amicable. There has been no row or bust-up."
Sir Terence said he had a number of people in mind for the job, and a firm of headhunters was also looking. He added: "Colin Williams felt that Denis should have got the job. They have worked together for a number of years so I understand the way he felt."
He said: "It has always been my intention to bring younger blood, men in their late 30s or early 40s, into executive positions in all the major group companies. I think retailing needs younger men. It is totally irrelevant that Mr Cassidy is hanging around in the bushes. He should put up or go away. All we are trying to do is get on with running the group."
Mr Cassidy, aged 55, has been involved with BHS since 1969. He said: "It is only partly true that I am going because of the decision to appoint someone outside. It was a condition of the merger that I would take on the group managing director's role, but obviously conditions have now changed. Therefore I considered it better to step down and let some young blood come through, rather than stay around and cause confusion."
The key job of chief executive of BHS goes to Mr Geoff Davy, aged 40 - who had a similar position elsewhere in the group at Habitat. He steps up to the main board. There are also top appointments at Mothercare, Habitat, and Richards. Sir Terence said he was planning to bring on two more non-executive directors.
Storehouse shares finished 13p lower at 345p.



Sir Terence Conran: decided to look outside the group for a managing director

Slower lending growth eases base rate fears

By David Smith
Economics Correspondent
The pace of bank lending slowed sharply last month, the Bank of England announced yesterday. Coming at the end of a week of good economic news, the announcement added to the City's optimism.
Bank lending in sterling, after seasonal adjustment, increased by £2 billion in August, after a rise of £4.9 billion in July.
The increase, which was at the bottom of the range of City expectations - some economists had feared a rise of up to £4 billion - has removed fears of higher base rates.
"The market was prepared to accept anything between £2.5 billion and £3 billion as satisfactory," said Mr Peter Fellner, economist at James Capel, the broker. "These figures confirm that June and July were erratically high. They ought to dispel some of the exaggerated fears about base rates."
But the Bank of England is likely to stamp down on any money market pressure for an early reduction in base rates.
The Bank is unlikely to regard last month's slowdown in bank lending as sufficient evidence that credit growth is slowing. Although the £2 billion increase was a marked improvement on June and July, it still gives an average monthly rise in bank lending of £3.6 billion. The average rise over the latest six months was £3.1 billion.
Money Supply
(% changes)
Year to August 4.5 22.1 15.5 14.9
August (a) 0.1 1.3 0.9 0.8
August(b) 0.3 1.5 1.3 1.3
(a) unadjusted (b) seasonally adjusted.
Source: Bank of England
The Bank of England thought that part of the sharp July bank lending rise was because of repayments of foreign currency borrowings by companies.
Separate figures from the London and Scottish clearing banks pointed to continued strong growth in lending to the personal sector. Lending for house purchase last month was £768 million, and other personal sector lending £210 million.
In the latest three months, personal sector lending in sterling from the clearing banks rose by £3.6 billion, out of total lending of £6 billion.
The Government's targeted measure of the money supply, M0, rose by 0.3 per cent last month. Its 12-month rate of growth fell to 4.5 per cent from 5.3 per cent in July. The target range is 2 to 6 per cent.
Broad money, M3, of which bank lending is one of the counterparts, rose by 1.5 per cent on the month, to stand 22.1 per cent up on a year earlier.
M3 was expanded by public sector borrowing of £750 million and by gilt sales of around £200 million by the non-bank private sector.

Maxwell increases Guinness Peat and Ansbacher stakes

By Richard Thomson, Banking Correspondent
Mr Robert Maxwell yesterday announced that he had increased his holdings in two City merchant banks, Guinness Peat Group and Henry Ansbacher.
His stake in GPG, the merchant bank which is the subject of a £356 million bid from Equicorp, rose from 6.38 per cent to 9.63 per cent. Mr Maxwell has almost certainly been paying well above the 115p Equicorp bid price for his recently purchased GPG shares since the market price has stood at about 120p for most of this week.
Mr Maxwell has still given no indication of an intention to bid for GPG but Mr Michael Kerr-Dineen, the managing director of GPG said: "There is now effectively an alternative cash offer in the market of around 119p."
Representatives of Mr Maxwell yesterday made a second offer to buy Equicorp's 39 per cent stake, but Equicorp insisted it was not interested in selling. Mr Maxwell made a similar offer last week and was turned down.
GPG's board continued to oppose Mr Maxwell's intervention, arguing that it was not good for either the company or the majority of shareholders to have two hostile shareholders.
Meanwhile, Lazard Brothers, which is acting as advisers to GPG, revealed that its fund management division sold more than one million GPG shares on September 16 at 116p. It is understood that Mr Maxwell was not the buyer of the shares, while Equicorp is not allowed under takeover rules to buy shares at above its bid price.
Mr Maxwell also announced that he had increased his holding in Henry Ansbacher from 5 per cent to 9.3 per cent and Ansbacher welcomed his increased stake. A spokesman for Mr Maxwell said that he had bought more shares because a unique opportunity to expand his holding arose. It had no connection with his stake-building in GPG.
Mr Maxwell has been associated with Ansbacher for many years and is one of the bank's most important corporate finance clients. The stake makes him the fifth largest shareholder in the bank which is 51 per cent owned by Groupe Bruxelles Lambert and the Pargesa group.



Robert Maxwell: a second offer for Equicorp stake

Novel call for £100m from Next

By John Bell, City Editor
Next, the fashion and mail order group, is raising £100 million via a rights issue of Euroconvertible bonds.
Next and its adviser, Salomon Brothers, hope the issue may prove to be a method of solving the impasse in the City over the problem of pre-emption rights - the principle under which existing shareholders receive first refusal of new shares issued.
Pension funds and insurance companies have tightened the rules on share issues that conflict with the pre-emption principle. Next and Salomon have opted for a financing by way of rights which will avoid the dilution normally suffered by shareholders who do not take up shares in a placing with "claw-back" arrangements.
Next plans to use the proceeds partly to refinance existing short-term borrowings and partly on further capital expenditure. It recently bought for cash Dillon's the bookseller and plans substantial spending on another acquisition, Combined English Stores Group.
It also has a sizeable warehouse project at Bradford.
The bonds carry a coupon of 5.75 per cent and have been fully underwritten. They will be issued at par and will mature in 2003. Conversion runs from December 12 this year at 430p, a 20.8 per cent premium over the mid-market price ruling at close of business on Thursday.
Full conversion of the bonds would represent 6.5 per cent of the company's existing share capital. There is also a redemption option in five years' time at £129, to give a redemption yield of 10.46 per cent. Shareholders will have the choice of bonds in registered or bearer form.
Provisional allotment letters go out on Monday and dealings in the rights, in nil paid form, begin on Tuesday.
Comment, page 27

Tate & Lyle sells Berisford stake

By Michael Tate
Tate & Lyle appears to have handed S&W Berisford, the food, commodities and financial services group, the key to its independence with the £100 million sale of its 14.9 per cent holding to the American Pritzker family, and Berisford directors, friends and associates.
Although Mr Garry Weston's Associated British Foods still owns 23.5 per cent of Berisford, and hinted last night that he may still be interested in a takeover bid, he now finds some 20 per cent of the share capital ranged against him, and any hostile approach will prove infinitely harder to accomplish.
Three-quarters of Tate's shares in Berisford have gone at 348p each to Chicago's wealthy Pritzker family, owners of the Hyatt hotel chain, the Braniff airline and various industrial companies.
The Pritzkers are old friends of Mr Ephraim Margulies, the chairman of Berisford, and can be expected to be loyal holders. Messrs Jay and Robert Pritzker, who are brothers, will join the Berisford board.
The remaining shares have been acquired, again at 348p, by the Berisford board members, their families and friendly institutions. "Every one of our directors has made a personal commitment," Mr Henry Lewis, the chief executive of Berisford, said.
Mr Weston confirmed last night that his group had held various discussions with Tate over the Berisford stake until three weeks ago, "but the conditions they put on the sale were unacceptable," he said.
Charterhouse, the adviser to Berisford, was told on Wednesday that it was being given first option on the share stake, provided a deal could be put together in 24 hours. That was achieved because the Pritzkers had already been alerted to the possibility of a deal.

Electronic group to raise £13m

By Alexandra Jackson
AB Electronic Products Group is raising £13.7 million, net of expenses, by way of a one-for-five rights issue at 350p, to help pay for two acquisitions, Plessey Connectors and Swansea Industrial Components.
The company also announced pretax profits for the year to end-June of £8 million, up from £6.4 million.
The Plessey subsidiary business will cost £13.9 million. AB is initially to pay £3.1 million for Swansea Industrial Components, with a profits-related "earn out" up to a maximum of £9.9 million.
AB's gearing has fallen from 40 per cent to 32 per cent since the last year-end; now it is expected to rise to 39 per cent.
A final dividend of 10.5p was declared, making a total of 12.5p for the year (10p). Fully-diluted earnings per share rose from 19.4p to 24.5p.
Tempos, page 27

Adelaide to buy more Royal

By Alison Eadie
Adelaide Steamship, the Australian industrial holding company led by Mr John Spalvin, said yesterday that it planned to increase its 5.12 per cent stake in Royal Insurance, Britain's biggest composite insurer.
Adelaide disclosed its stake earlier this week.
Royal's shares rose a further 11p yesterday to 586p. Its publicly stated view of Australian stakeholding was unchanged. Sir John Cuckney, chairman of Royal, said when the stake was disclosed, that Adelaide showed "excellent taste and judgement".
Insurance analysts in London said yesterday that a full bid for Royal looked improbable given the relative sizes of the companies. Mr Spalvin's more likely strategy was to build a stake and sell it on at a profit.
He sold his stake in Blue Circle at a good profit earlier this year. He has a talent for recognizing undervalued assets, analysts said. The composite insurance sector is felt to be undervalued at the present.
Adelaide also announced final results to the end of June showing a 44 per cent rise in net earnings to Aus\$168.34 million (£75 million) from Aus\$117.22 million in 1985-86.
Royal's market capitalization is nearly £2.8 billion. Adelaide is ranked as Australia's twenty-fourth largest company.
Better-than-expected results from Adelaide and associate David Jones, both released yesterday, were capped by approval from Mr Paul Keating, the Treasurer, that David Jones could acquire 15 per cent of National Australia Bank. Richard Bentley writes from Sydney.
David Jones holds 9.8 per cent of NAB, which recently bought the Clydesdale and Northern banks from Midland. It is one of Australia's Big Four banks.
The retailer David Jones posted its seventh consecutive record profit. On a 9 per cent sales increase, it raised profit by 135 per cent to \$A221.64 million.
Both Adelaide and David Jones declared an Aus 18 cents dividend, making a total for the year was Aus 36 cents (Aus 34 cents).

Economists put down their arms - for the time being

A fragile peace over Keynes

By Our Economics Correspondent
After 3 1/2 days of debate, the conference finally agreed on a merger. No, not between the Liberals and the Social Democrats, but between Keynesians and monetarists.
That, at least, was how Mr Walter Eltis, the economics director of the National Economic Development Office, saw the outcome of the conference he had organized in London on "Keynes's General Theory After 50 Years," which finished yesterday.
The conference, which attracted some of the world's best-known economists - as well as Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, who opened the proceedings on Tuesday - actually came 51 years after *The General Theory of Employment, Interest and Money* was published, but no one was too worried about that.
Mr Eltis said there was general agreement among participants - who came from both sides of the Keynesian/monetarist fence - that a general increase in public expenditure on its own would lead to additional inflation.
But he said there was also agreement that Keynes had a relevance to the economic problems of the 1980s. In particular, if unemployment itself creates the conditions for the continuation of unemployment - a concept known in the economics trade as "hysteresis" - then there may be a role for selective expansion to reduce long-term unemployment.
Professor Robin Matthews, who chaired yesterday's closing session, observed that, on Mr Eltis's summing-up, the conference was in danger of destroying the popular view that economists never agreed on anything.
Not everybody was prepared to go along with this. Sir Alan Walters, erstwhile personal economic adviser to the Prime Minister, said he had recently been re-reading the *General Theory*.
Before doing so, he said, he had come round to the view that Keynes had been misinterpreted by his postwar followers, who used his theories as the basis for managing the economy through fiscal policy.
But after re-reading it, Sir Alan said, he was convinced that Keynes was, after all, a crude Keynesian.
The Keynesians who were there, crude or otherwise, did not rise to the bait.
The conference, attended by economists from around the world, was treated to an upbeat speech on the British economy by Sir Terence Burns, the Government's chief economic adviser, one evening, and an excursion to the play "Serious Money" on another.
When it was all over, as is often the case with these events, there was a sense of relief. Nobody had been caught out with a surprise paper or an unexpected intervention. And above all, there was relief that those well-thumbed copies of *The General Theory of Employment, Interest and Money* can go back on the shelves for another 50 years.

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Dealers fear Kleinwort rights issue

Dow makes gains in early trading

10	2250	26	182	175	4	20	30	38
40	2300	57	83	118	140	35	47	57
60	2350	27	62	86	1	55	70	
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	2450	24	23	1	75	127		
	2500	1	11	1	175	177		

Price of average UK house jumps 16% to £40,000

By Peter Gardiner, Family Money Editor

The average house price in Britain is now almost £40,000 and has risen by 16 per cent in the past 12 months, according to figures from the Building Societies Association.

The BSA said yesterday that the highest regional average was £43,626 for the Greater London area - 60.9 per cent above the national average. The lowest regional price was for the Yorkshire and Humberside region, where the average was £26,949.

Between the second quarters of 1986 and 1987, house prices rose most rapidly - 22 per cent - in the South-east, excluding Greater London. Prices in this area rose by 21 per cent. The lowest increase was recorded in Northern Ireland, where average prices have risen by 5 per cent in the past year.

In spite of the large price

increases, however, there is little evidence of a slackening in demand for building society mortgage money. For the sixth month in succession, a total of more than £3 billion was promised to mortgage applicants.

In the second quarter of this year, building societies made 131,000 loans to first-time buyers. This compares with a figure of 112,000 for the second quarter of last year. The average price paid by all first-time buyers was £29,732.

In addition, 140,000 building society loans to existing owner-occupiers who moved house were made in the second quarter of this year. They paid an average price of £48,757 - 12.5 per cent higher than a year earlier. The average loan to existing owner-occupiers was £29,031 - 10.2 per cent higher than in the second quarter of 1986.

To help towards funding these commitments, the societies attracted £667 million from retail investors last month.

The societies' savings receipts in August are normally depressed by new car sales. It was also expected that the second calls on TSB and Rolls-Royce shareholders would reduce the inflow of funds.

Mr Mark Boleat, director-general of the BSA, thought the improvement could have been connected with concern over stock market values.

"Investors may have taken profits, returning their funds to their building societies, which are currently offering attractive rates of interest," he said.

The societies' additional net inflow from non-retail sources such as Eurobonds and certificates of deposit was a relatively modest £54 million last month. The equivalent figure for July was £430 million.

Building societies are hoping to persuade the Building Societies Commission, which supervises their activities, to allow them to increase the proportion of funds they raise from non-retail sources.

The BSA announced yesterday that it had formally asked the commission to raise the non-retail limit from 20 per cent to 30 per cent of funds from the beginning of next year.

The BSA says it sees no conflict between the mutual status of societies and the raising of funds on a non-retail basis. It argues that societies cannot work for the benefit of their borrowing members unless they use the cheapest funds to finance mortgage loans.

Thornton lapses bid for TR trust

By Alison Eadie

Thornton Management yesterday lapsed its bid for Touche Remnant's £241 million TR Pacific Basin Investment Trust after receiving only 0.6 per cent acceptances by the first closing date.

Mr Richard Thornton, the head of Thornton Management, said TR's decision to offer shareholders 99 per cent of net asset value in cash, as one of three options for the future of the trust, led to his withdrawal.

Thornton, through its vehicle Futureadvance, had offered 97.2 per cent. It could not match TR's offer because of the golden parachute management contracts worth about 1 per cent.

Mr Thornton said the utilization of TR's entire £2.5 billion investment trust operations was now inevitable. He added that the bid costs would be recovered through cashing in Thornton's 1 per cent holding in Pacific Basin Investment Trust.

Lord Remnant, the chairman of TR, said he was thrilled and encouraged to have the support of so many shareholders.

He said TR's proposals offered greater value and greater choice. Any decision by TR's remaining 10 investment trusts to go the same route as Pacific Basin Investment Trust would be up to the boards of the individual trusts, he said.

£6m estate agent deal for Baker

By Cliff Feltham

Baker Harris Saunders, the first commercial firm of surveyors and estate agents to obtain a full listing, is taking over Bailey, Posner and Partners, another estate agent, in a deal which could cost £6.5 million.

The final amount will depend on future profits of the business.

Last year Bailey, Posner made profits before tax and directors' remuneration of £516,000 compared with £281,000 the previous year.

In a separate deal, Britannia Building Society, the country's ninth largest with assets of £4.5 billion, yesterday announced its first move into estate agency area, buying Louis Taylor, the North Staffordshire-based firm.

Wisdom of Salomon solves a City problem

With the first anniversary of Big Bang fast approaching there seems at last a chance that both sides of the pre-emptive rights dispute may settle their differences in time for a happy birthday party.

Few issues have caused such bad blood between thrusting corporate financiers and the conservatively minded institutional shareholders who manage pension and insurance funds. The securities houses wish to make the most of the new freedoms post Big Bang and the more competitive environment brought about by the entry of foreign securities houses to the London market. The institutions are determined to preserve a deeply ingrained shareholder tradition - that existing shareholders have the right of first refusal in normal circumstances when new issues of equity are to be made.

At one point earlier this year, the confrontation threatened to develop into an unseemly mud-slinging match and in the best tradition of British compromise, the Stock Exchange stepped in to hold the ring. The best that could be hoped for from this well meant initiative was that the scrapping would continue behind closed doors. Perhaps the most aggrieved parties were the companies like Fisons and CH Beazer whose financing plans were caught in the crossfire, truncated or abandoned altogether.

Full marks then to Next and Salomon Brothers, who yesterday unveiled an innovative financing which, at first glance, seems to satisfy the objectives of most interested parties. There were a number of problems which surfaced as companies and their advisers sought ways of raising cash or raising their profile by issuing shares overseas without following the lengthy and cumbersome rights issue route.

At home the so called claw-back technique was devised to ensure that all shareholders would have the right to participate in placings. The institutions fought and won the battle to ensure that any such placing should be entirely subject to claw-back. Overseas, claw-back arrangements are not possible.

This still left the problem of shareholders who did not, or especially if they were small shareholders could not, take up their entitlement in a placing. These investors suffered a dilution of their interest in their company. Further, there were no "rights" to sell as there would have been in a traditional fund raising exercise.

Salomon and Next tackled the problems in a refreshingly direct way in offering Euroconvertible bonds by way of a rights issue. They recognized that by so doing many private shareholders would be unlikely to participate in an issue of instruments tailored for professional pockets. But these non-participants have two options; either to sell

their nil paid rights in the market which Salomon will be making from Tuesday or to do nothing. In the latter case, the rights to bonds not taken up will be sold and the proceeds distributed to their owners.

Throughout the acrimonious dispute, some have suggested that underlying the snuffy attitudes of the institutions has been the prospect of a loss of underwriting fees which usually accompany a rights issue. This is mostly easy money in recent bull markets conditions. The professional investors strenuously deny such base motives. But just in case, Salomon arranged for 30 per cent of the underwriting to be done domestically, though there is no doubt that the whole issue could have been completed among overseas investors.

Reaction from professional investors was broadly favourable yesterday, though most had yet to delve through the fine print of the listing particulars. Provided that there is no controversy over the pricing of the bond issue, which seems unlikely, the Next financing will be seen as a blueprint for many more to follow.

Landing a prize

There are two theories doing the rounds about John Ritblat's British Land group. The first, fuelled by this week's sale of Grippen, is the wake of other disposals, was that the master had seen the future and was quietly turning the less luminous jewels in his portfolio to solid cash. If anyone knows how to handle the downside of a speculative bubble in property values, it must be the brain behind British Land, which despite mountainous gearing, survived the mid-Seventies crash to thrive and prosper anew. The second has it that Mr Ritblat is tidying up his empire in preparation for a sizeable takeover bid. This idea would fit well with the vigour of British Land's shares, which have been showing excellent form.

The bulls of British Land refuse to dismiss the idea of a merger with Sydney Mason's Hammerson, which despite the two-tier voting structure and the 28 per cent of the shares lying in safe hands, has become a favourite bid stock this year. At 685p, the "A" shares are trading preciously close to a full net asset value and it is hard to make a case for investment on fundamental grounds. But the break-up value of Hammerson's portfolio is closer to 850p-900p, depending on who happens to be doing the breaking. The bid, if it comes, will have to be agreed, and at roughly £1.5 billion, would be a blockbuster. But in the property world's most extraordinary year for a decade it would not be entirely surprising.

John Bell
City Editor

Sprinkel resigns from Council

From Bailey Morris, Washington

Mr Beryl Sprinkel, the Reagan Administration's strongest free-market advocate, has resigned as chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers.

Mr Sprinkel, aged 63, met President Reagan earlier this week to express his desire to step down in order to spend more time with his family and to return to the private sector. He is expected to remain at the Council until the end of November to give Mr Reagan time to find a successor.

The resignation of Mr Sprinkel, who prepared the Administration's official forecast of 3.2 per cent for 1987, was not expected to have any impact on policy.

But Mr Sprinkel has been credited with saving the prestigious Council which President Reagan almost abolished after the stormy tenure of Mr Martin Feldstein who infuriated the White House with his critical, public speeches.

Mr Sprinkel's resignation was confirmed as revised figures showed the US economy grew at a rate of 2.5 per cent during the second quarter, up from a prior estimate a month ago of 2.3 per cent.

Commerce Department officials said the economy benefited from the strongest export performance in more than seven years.

For the first six months of the year, the economy grew at a faster than anticipated rate of 3.5 per cent. The figures also revealed continued growth in inflation which grew at an annual rate of 4.1 per cent in the second quarter after a gain of 4.5 per cent in the first quarter.

Exports during the second quarter increased by 17.9 per cent, the largest quarterly gain since the first quarter of 1980.



Mr Beryl Sprinkel: prepared the 3.2 per cent forecast

LIG pays £47m for Italian health firm

By Our City Staff

London International Group, the contraceptive-to-fine china consumer products group, is buying HATU-ICO, a leading Italian producer of branded condoms and over-the-counter health and personal care products.

The acquisition will cost 103 billion lire (£47.9 million) and is being financed by a £50 million vendor placed convertible Eurobond. Mr Alan Woltz, the chairman and chief executive of LIG, said the convertible Eurobond offered

the lowest cost method of raising money and would help broaden the base of the company's shareholders in Europe.

The issue will be priced at a conversion premium of about 22 per cent to 26 per cent above the price of LIG shares. The underlying shares are equivalent to 9 per cent of LIG's capital.

The acquisition will more than double LIG's turnover in continental Europe. HATU-ICO made pretax profits of

£2.7 million on sales of £52 million last year.

It is privately owned and is the market leader in condoms in Italy, with sales last year of £11 million. Sales in the first seven months of this year were substantially ahead, the company said.

The company also sold £18 million worth of deodorants, baby products, sun-care products and anti-cellulite creams last year.

The medical care products division, which makes and

distributes syringes and thermometers, had sales last year of £12 million but made material losses. LIG has already had talks with a prospective buyer.

HATU-ICO's third principal division makes and distributes condoms, toiletries and medical products in Spain.

Mr Woltz said that consumer demand for condoms in the US and Britain was running 20 per cent ahead this year, due to the AIDS scare.

TEMPUS

William Morrison stands out on the supermarket shelves

William Morrison Supermarkets may be regularly highlighted as a takeover target, but it is managed as if it intends to remain independent for quite some time to come.

The family shareholding, which now falls from just more than 50 per cent to 44 per cent, has done much to preserve the integrity of this paragon among northern supermarket chains. Its 35 outlets, many of above-average size, would clearly be of interest to others.

Morrison has been loath to trouble its shareholders for money, partly to avoid diluting the family holding - although even now it is no less vulnerable - and partly as strong cash flow has funded expansion so far. But the scale of the present programme is such that external resources were needed.

Since 1982, Morrison has increased its sales area by 64 per cent to just more than one million sq ft. Between now and the beginning of 1989, it will add another 35 per cent, taking the trading area up to 1.4 million sq ft.

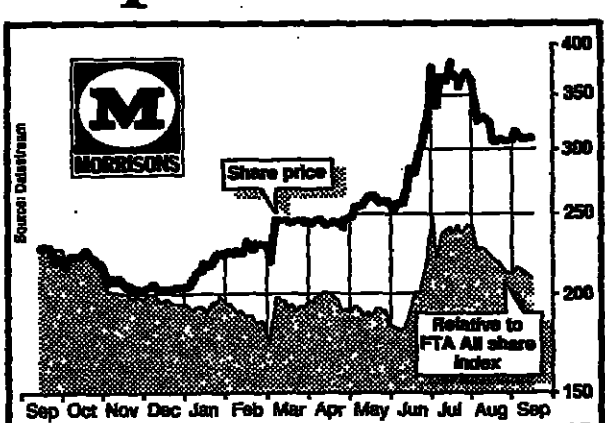
Morrison has kept ahead of the competition by providing a high proportion of top quality fresh food. It continues to improve the range of higher margin fresh food. The expansion plan includes installing a 50,000 sq ft. fresh food warehouse.

The installation of a 450,000 sq ft grocery distribution warehouse is also under way, which will mean that 90 per cent of groceries are centrally distributed.

As with all leading chains, electronic point of sales systems are being developed and upgraded with good effect on stock control and customer service.

Interim results show 3.1 per cent underlying progress from existing stores, a 4 per cent boost from new openings and 2.9 per cent extraordinary growth. Operating margins widened from 5 per cent to 5.3 per cent, reflecting increased efficiencies.

For the year to end-Janu-



Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep

any 1988, Morrison should make £25.5 million, taking account of the convertible. On a fully-diluted basis, the shares are selling on a p/e ratio of 18.2 times. This seems undemanding for a group which has shown 24 per cent compound earnings growth during the past five years and is widely regarded as the best regional group in the business.

Acatos & Hutcheson

Remember the days when one could eat butter without feeling guilty? They seem like a long time ago but, in the meantime, companies such as Acatos & Hutcheson, Britain's second-largest refiner of edible oils, have been making a good living out of the improving image of oil and margarine.

Acatos refines and further processes an increasingly specialised range of bulk and bottled vegetable oils and margarines for a wide selection of customers, ranging from food manufacturers to caterers and retailers.

It is particularly strong in the provision of own-label products. This is a field left unattended by Unilever, the edible oils market leader, which has not ventured outside the market for branded products.

The 1.1 million tonne market for edible oils has been traditionally fragmented and inefficient and is dogged by

overcapacity. So, over the years, imports from European neighbours have made significant inroads and now hold 18 per cent of the market.

Acatos has been investing heavily in "state of the art" plant and equipment and is in a position to undercut the imports. By this route it aims to treble its margarine market share from its present level of 9 per cent.

The recent addition of a margarine processing plant adjacent to an existing refining operation in London's Docklands is providing Acatos with a particularly good opportunity to see off the imports who account for 15 per cent of this market.

Acatos should make £12.3 million in the year to end-September, rising to £15.3 million in 1987-88. By then, earnings per share should have doubled over two years to 32p. The prospective rating of 21.5 times falls to 17 times by 1987-88. In spite of the strong performance since the flotation at 160p in July last year, the shares, now standing at 550p, have further to go.

AB Electronic One of the advantages of having a reasonable price-earnings ratio is being able to make acquisitions without diluting earnings.

AB Electronic Products Group, having virtually recovered from the dark days of

the shadow of 1985 appears to have lifted at last.

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to Thursday's trading

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Address

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Date of Birth

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The state of your shares

Anyone who has bought and kept shares in one or more of the Government's privatization issues to date, may well find it difficult to keep track of them. In the table below Family Money

gives details of all the privatizations to date and also the sale of the Trustee Savings Bank. In every case, the issue date and price are given.

As a reminder, and to help you make sure you have the money at the ready, the dates and price per share of further instalments are shown as

appropriate. As an indication of what your holdings are now worth, the price late yesterday afternoon is shown. And in order to give some idea of how the different shares have performed during the past 12 months, the final two columns show the highest and lowest prices recorded.

Issue	Issue date	Issue price (p)	Instalment due date	Current price	Over 12 months High (p)	Low (p)
Brit Petroleum (31.5%)	Oct 79 Sept 83 Oct 87 ¹	363 435	Fully paid Fully paid	377 ²	410	212.67
British Aer	Feb 81 May 85	150 375	Fully paid Fully paid	502	688	430
Cable & Wireless	Oct 81 Dec 83 Dec 85 ²	180 275 587	Fully paid Fully paid Fully paid	447	480	277
Amersham Int	Feb 82	142	Fully paid	630	645	365
Britol	Nov 82 Aug 85	215 185	Fully paid	322	359	113
Assoc British Pts	Feb 83 Apr 84 ²	112 270	Fully paid	640	673	273
Enterprise Oil	June 84	185	Fully paid	342	348	124
Jaguar	July 84	165	Fully paid	560	628	501
British Telecom (40.8%)	Nov 84	130	Fully paid	262.50	334	178
TSB ³	Sep 85	100	Fully paid	143	152	100
British Gas	Nov 85	135	Apr 88 (40p) (final)	178.5	200	88.91
British Airways	Apr 87	125	Fully paid	215	234	125
Rolls-Royce	Apr 87	170	Sept 23 (85p) (final)	205	231.50	170
BAA	July 87	245	May 88 (145p) (final)	143	146	100

¹ Details to be announced ² One-for-one swap above 1986 ³ Not technically privatization ⁴ Resounding government state ⁵ Two-for-one share split in May 7

Source: Debenhams Bank

BP rush hits four million

A further step along the road of privatizing the Government's remaining 31.5 per cent stake in BP was taken this week with the announcement that the minimum investment will be around £250 payable in three instalments and spread over 18 months.

Individuals who buy shares in the BP offer will be eligible for a bonus allocation of one share for every 10 bought and held for at least three years. The maximum bonus allocation is 150 shares.

Nearly four million inquiries have now been registered at the BP Share Information Office even though the price of the share offer is not due to be announced until the middle of October. All that is known about the price at this stage is that it will be lower than the stock market price of existing BP shares when it is announced.

Individuals who do register before a cut-off date (also yet to be announced) will be sent a prospectus and priority share application form. If they do decide to apply, they are guaranteed an allocation of shares irrespective of how heavy demand is. Individuals can register with the Share Information Office by telephoning 0272 272 272 or by completing and posting a share offer advertisement coupon, or by returning a registration card available at any BP service station.

The Skipton and Cheshire building societies have both launched new home contents insurance packages this week.

The Skipton's Home Cover is underwritten by Commercial Union, and premiums are calculated according to the number of bedrooms in the property. Almost everything in the home is covered, from hi-fi equipment to frozen foods. World-wide cover on personal possessions is included, the amount of which depends on the size of the home, but with a maximum of £1,000 per item. There is a 24-hour emergency repair service, and a 24-hour legal helpline option. Discounts are given on Chubb locks and on premiums for the over-55s.

Homecover Plus comes from the Cheshire in conjunction with Sun Alliance. Basic cover includes an emergency repair service and a legal helpline. Optional cover for personal possessions, cash, credit cards, legal expenses and pets can be arranged.

The Cheshire's offer is available to all. The Skipton's is aimed specifically at the society's savers who do not have a Skipton mortgage.

The National Westminster Bank has improved the terms of the School Fees Loan Plan it offers in conjunction with the Independent School Fees Information Service.

Parents can now borrow more over a longer period. Subject to the bank's lending criteria, up to 80 per cent of the value of the

Opportunities Trust is no exception to this general rule. What may make it an attractive proposition among its peers is that Fidelity does have its own investment offices in Tokyo, Hong Kong, Taipei and Sydney, on whose expertise it will draw for local knowledge.

The minimum investment is £1,000.

Birmingham Midshires Building Society has added a product called Premier Bonus to its investment account range.

Premier Bonus is a 90-day notice account with a £1,000 minimum. The account currently pays 8.75 per cent net and the Birmingham Midshires guarantees that, whatever happens to interest rates in the next two years, investors will get 3.75 per cent net interest above the society's share rate.

security offered will be considered, as opposed to 70 per cent. The term for withdrawing money from the fund is extended from five to 10 years.

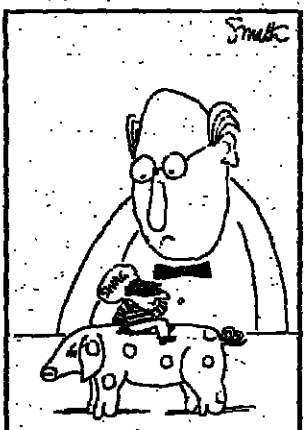
The £10 withdrawal fee previously levied has been scrapped. Instead, there is a one-off arrangement fee of £100, payable at the outset. The interest charged on the loan is still NatWest base rate plus 2.5 per cent.

Details and application forms are available from any NatWest branch, or from Claremont Savile (0590 28787).

Fidelity is a unit trust group of international standing, so a new fund from this company is always a significant event. Today Fidelity is launching its latest fund - the Eastern Opportunities Trust. The purpose of the fund will be investment in companies in the Asian region, including Japan, concentrating on smaller companies and special situations.

Fidelity says that at the outset it expects Japan to represent around 30 per cent of the portfolio. Other markets the managers will consider for investment are Hong Kong, Singapore, Malaysia, Taiwan, South Korea, India, Indonesia, the Philippines, Thailand, Australia and New Zealand.

There are several other similar funds on the market and they tend to be rated as high risk-high reward and suitable only for investors who are prepared for the downturns of performance as well as the upswings. The Fidelity Eastern



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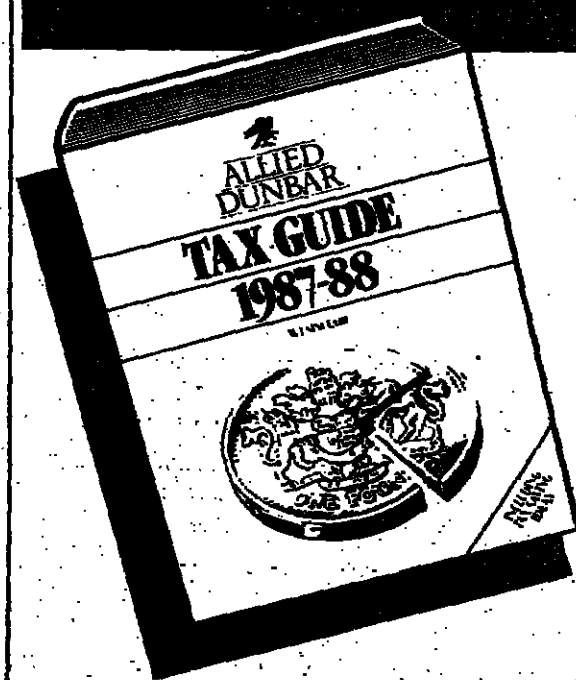
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FAMILY MONEY/3

Pensions across the trade

Two new industry-wide pension schemes unveiled this week could together attract contributions from around 750,000 working people — assuming that the targeted employers accept them and their respective employees opt for a company pension plan rather than a personal pension.

The Engineering Industry Pension Scheme (EIPS) will be available from April 6 to all engineering companies not operating occupational pension schemes of their own. More than 500,000 people have the option. The scheme has been developed, and will be administered, by Friends' Provident. It will operate on a money-purchase basis, whereby the proceeds of the contributions finance the pension. This is different from a final salary scheme, in which the benefits are based on earnings at retirement.

The scheme will be voluntary, and employees will have the option to contract out of the State Earnings-Related Pension Scheme (SERPS), or remain contracted-in. Members moving from one employer participating in EIPS to another will automatically have the full value of their pension transferred.

Employees moving out of the industry should be able to transfer the full value to either

a personal pension plan or a scheme with their new employer — or they will be able to leave the account in EIPS until retirement.

Employees joining EIPS from the start receive life assurance cover based on two years' PAYE earnings, up to a £50,000 maximum. The cost of this and the administration of the scheme is borne by the employer. Evidence of health will usually not be required.

Under the scheme both employers and employees are required to contribute, and the employer pays the charges. The contributions are invested in with-profit accounts, to which bonuses are added until the pension begins. If an employee dies before state

'Demand was for a unitized plan'

retirement age, the life assurance and pension are paid to the surviving spouse. If death occurs during retirement, the spouse is entitled to 50 per cent of the pension.

The British Clothing Industry Association's industry-wide portable pension scheme, also launched this week, has been developed by the financial advisers and pension consultants, Richards, Longstaff, and will be administered by Save & Prosper. It is aimed at around 200,000 employees, and will be available from April.

It will operate on a money-purchase, contracted-out basis only. Unlike EIPS, the contributions will be paid into a unitized contract. John Greener, chairman of Richards, Longstaff, says demand was clearly for a unitized plan that offered a choice, between a fund invested in fixed-interest securities, and a widely based equity fund.

The scheme has no minimum contribution for either

employees or employers. John Perceval, Save & Prosper's executive director, describes the basic rebate-only scheme as "a chassis which can be built on to provide a very sophisticated executive pension". Both parties are able to make contributions, and life assurance cover can be added.

The units have an initial 5 per cent charge and an annual 1.25 per cent management charge. There is also a £15 annual administration charge.

The big question for employees being offered an industry-wide scheme is whether to opt for a personal pension plan instead. Industry-wide schemes run on a money-purchase basis and contracted out of SERPS cannot be offered before April, so there is thinking time.

Ian Farr, of Friends' Provident, says: "An industry-wide scheme should give better value, pound for pound, because of the reduction in costs made through the economies of scale." There are benefits when free life cover is provided and when the employer makes a contribution to the pension. Mr Farr says many employers will add to an industry-wide scheme, but far fewer will contribute to individual employees' personal pension plans.

Another benefit of an industry-wide scheme is that the

National Insurance rebate is paid monthly, whereas with personal pensions payment can be delayed for about nine months. A further consideration is that the prospect of choosing a personal pension may seem daunting for an employee. With an industry-wide scheme, the choice is usually made by expert advisers, who can examine all aspects and negotiate the keenest charges.

At Legal & General, Chris Hatry agrees with the low cost argument. However, he says: "In certain circumstances, employees should look before they leap into an industry-wide scheme." He says that if they are offered an industry-wide scheme before April 6

'They should think twice before joining'

1988, they should think twice before joining, unless their scheme is contracted-out under a guaranteed minimum pension.

This applies especially to men under 45 and women under 40 as these age groups can gain a National Insurance rebate, back-dated to April 1987, if they take a personal pension plan contracted out of SERPS next July.

Although effected in July, the pension would relate to the



Chris Hatry: "Join both"

tax year ended April 1988. But they will not be able to do this if they have joined an industry-wide scheme before April 6, 1988.

Mr Hatry recommends getting the best of both worlds by joining the company scheme after April 6, and taking out a back-dated contracted-out personal pension plan in July.

He says that employees with no spare cash, by shopping around should be able to find a personal pension plan that requires no minimum contribution and will take the rebate only.

To complicate matters further, young employees who are offered a contracted-in industry-wide pension scheme in, say, January next year, will have to compare the employer's contribution with the National Insurance rebate. If the employer is generous, this may be a better choice.

Amanda Pardoe

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John Greener: consultant

Dearer diamonds

Ever since the 1980 collapse in the market the outlook for diamonds has been dull. But next month a 67 carat diamond is likely to be traded for \$7 million and there is some talk that the clouds may be receding.

The reason is that the Japanese have discovered diamonds and are buying in a big way. Before 1973 the Japanese language did not have a word for diamonds. Last year, of the 467 million pieces of diamond jewellery sold worldwide, Japan bought more than anybody else except the United States. In the first six months of this year Japanese diamond sales were up by 50 per cent in carat terms and 60 per cent in dollar values.

The most likely explanation is the strength of the yen against the dollar. With diamonds traded in dollars and the yen appreciating steadily against the US currency, the Japanese have found diamonds a good buy.

It is this Japanese interest that has prompted De Beers to announce a 10 per cent price rise for rough diamonds, coming into effect on October 5, the fourth increase in less than five years. It means diamond prices have gone up by 17.5 per cent since March 1983.

So does it herald a return of the rollicking days of the late 1970s when diamonds seemed to be everybody's favourite investment? The Western world, recovering from oil price shocks, saw inflation soar, real interest rates fall, and people desert paper money for the old standbys — metals and diamonds. Crowds gathered outside Hatton Garden jewellers to get grandma's candelabra valued. In January 1980 gold peaked at \$850 an

ounce and later the same year one New York diamond dealer went home very happy. A one carat D flawless diamond that had traded for \$12,000 ten years earlier fetched \$62,000.

Then inflation was painfully brought down, equities came back into fashion and De Beers decided things had gone too far. Through its marketing arm, the Central Selling Organisation, De Beers controls 80-85 per cent of the world's rough diamonds and was unhappy about the relationship between rough and polished diamond prices. It likes polished diamond prices to be ahead of the rough variety but not too far ahead. Distribution of larger quantities of diamonds was restricted.

De Beers' point is that diamonds should not be seen as investments. There are 5,000 different varieties, varying from the smaller cheaper ones, at \$50 a carat, to the larger, costlier variety fetching \$100,000 a carat. There is no diamond equivalent of a gold coin. Diamond sales form a pyramid. The higher you go the rarer and more expensive they become.

De Beers' chairman Julian Ogilvie Thompson says: "Our policy is diamonds should be regarded for their intrinsic beauty, rarity and lasting value. The thrust of our promotional efforts is in favour of good-quality diamond jewellery available from reputable retail outlets."

So if you want to buy the love of your life that exquisite diamond bracelet, do so because it will enhance her beauty, not because it will add value to your investment portfolio.

Mihir Bose

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Avoid a collision after your crash

INSURANCE

An accident is always a collision between two entirely innocent drivers, according to the cynics of the insurance industry.

If that is how it appears, the rules insurers drill into Britain's motorists may be partly to blame. If you have a crash, all you do is exchange names and addresses with the other driver, tell him where you are insured, identify any witnesses, and — above all — avoid admitting liability.

Finally, you collect a claim form from your insurer and fill it in, perhaps a week or 10 days after the accident. The whole system ensures that there is no record of what happened at the time of the crash.

It gives drivers ample time to persuade themselves that they were not to blame at all.

That is very different from the system elsewhere in Europe, as anyone taking a car abroad will know. When your green card arrives, insurance companies usually enclose a copy of the European Accident Statement as part of your pack.

The statement contains 15 or 16 questions designed to establish a framework of facts on which the drivers involved can agree if there is a collision. They include details of the speed at which you were both travelling, the position of the

two cars when the accident happened, and the scale of any damage — as well as the standard issues such as names, addresses and insurers.

The questions are always in the same order, whatever the language. Finally you each sign the other's statements and they then go off to the insurers concerned.

The forms are not an admission of liability. But at least they provide a contemporary record of what has happened, as you agree it at the time — rather than the two rather different versions compiled some days later, which the system in Britain often produces.

Insurance companies are perfectly happy with the European Accident Statement in Europe, but are reluctant to bring in a comparable system in Britain.

General Accident, one of Britain's biggest motor insurers introduced a comparable form experimentally in some parts of Britain in the 1970s, but the attempt lasted only 18 months. The rest of the industry would not follow General Accident's lead, and the idea was dropped.

That reflected the industry's conservatism and its ability to disagree about almost everything. A more recent example of that appeared earlier this year. The British Insurance Brokers Association tried to develop a standardized accident form for the industry

only to find that the motor insurers could not agree on the questions it should ask.

What is more, insurance companies have a weakness for the simplicities of the knock-for-knock system, which broadly assumes that it takes two to make an accident.

After a crash, each driver makes a claim and each insurer pays for its own customer's damage. Unless there is good evidence that responsibility is clear-cut — perhaps through a police prosecution of one driver — both parties will usually lose some part of their no-claims discount.

Most companies have five steps in their NCD ladder. If you have the top rate, which comes after five years' claim-free driving, you will normally pay only 40 per cent of the starter's rate for your particular car and area.

If your NCD is docked after an accident, you normally fall

PR people stress: claim not blame

two steps in the ladder — so that if you were on full NCD, you will go back to the position of someone with three years' claim-free driving. You will pay 60 per cent — rather than 40 per cent — of the beginner's rate.

The insurance public relations men are quick to stress that the system depends on



That all too familiar bump. More problems can arise when drivers give differing versions

"claim not blame" — so that losing some of your NCD does not imply culpability. But that philosophical point may not be much comfort to you if you feel you have been blamed unfairly.

At that moment, the industry is quick to offer reassurance. If you feel hard done by, there is a simple way out. Most drivers have an "excess", which makes them liable to pay the first £50 or £100 of any claim. If you feel that you are firmly in the right, you can always ask the other driver for the excess.

If he agrees to pay it, with or without threats of legal action, he has effectively accepted responsibility, and once you let your insurers know the fact, you will be left with an unblemished NCD.

If you have arranged your policy through a broker, he should let you know of your right to claim back your excess and preserve your NCD. Indeed, the broker will probably do it for you.

What else can you do to safeguard yourself? The simplest route is to take out a policy with a protected NCD. But that is only possible if you are getting the top rate of discount in the first place.

Details vary but, broadly, protected NCD policies will allow you two claims within five years, so that you are penalized only on your third claim. Rates are relatively cheap but, of course, the people who qualify are those

'Knock-for-knock' reduces disputes

who are least likely to make a claim anyway.

Insurers always defend the knock-for-knock system on the grounds that it is efficient and cheap and stops endless arguments.

"People always assume that if responsibility for an accident is not split down the

middle, it must all be one driver's fault," says a senior underwriter. "But life doesn't work like that. In many cases blame splits more like 70-30. But if the knock-for-knock system was not there, it would merely mean more disputes, and more premiums going to make lawyers richer."

That is probably true, but it does not destroy the case for introducing something like the accident statement into Britain. A new form would at least make it clear what drivers accepted immediately after an accident, and allow insurers to apportion blame more fairly.

Insurers seem happy with the system as it works in France and Belgium, and indeed throughout Europe. Introducing the European Accident Statement to Britain would certainly not replace the knock-for-knock system. But it could ensure that it was used only when both drivers were partly to blame.

Tom Tickell



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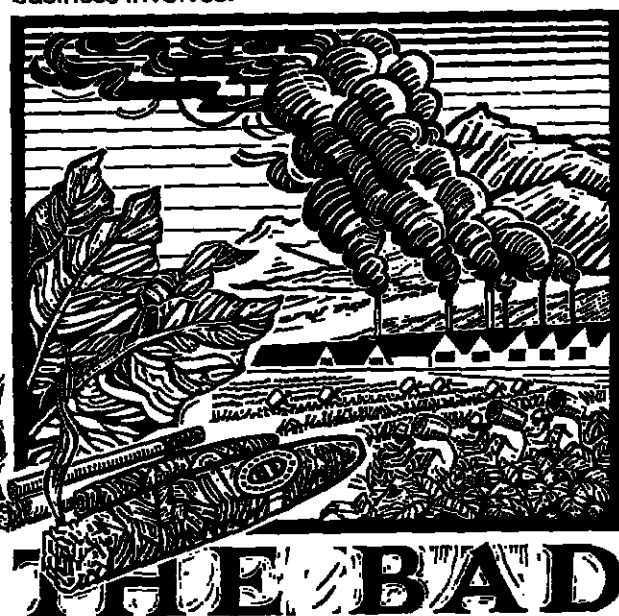
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In selecting shares for the NM Conscience Fund portfolio, the Managers will, so far as is possible, be bound by the following Charter which has been approved by the Validation Panel, whose members are involved in environmental, charitable and ethical issues.

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The charter aims to avoid companies whose main business involves:



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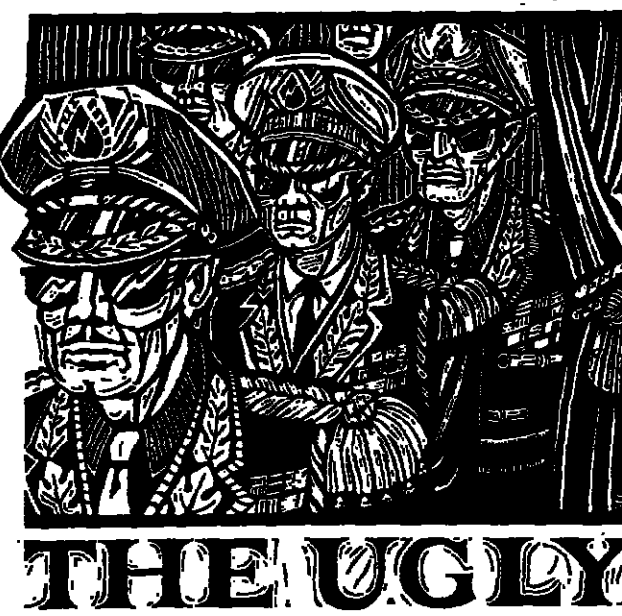
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Managers. NM Schroder Unit Trust Managers Limited (Member of the Unit Trust Association), FREEPOST, Regal House, 14 James Street, London WC2E 8BL. Registered Office: NM House, Serpentine Road, Poole, Dorset BH15 2BH, England. No. 1531522.

Trustee: Lloyds Bank Plc.

This offer is not available to residents of the Republic of Ireland

FIXED PRICE OFFER WITH 1% DISCOUNT UNTIL OCT. 9th ONLY

To: NM Schroder Unit Trust Managers Limited, FREEPOST, Enterprise House, Isambard Brunel Road, Portsmouth PO1 1BR. Telephone: 0705 827753

I/we wish to invest (minimum £500) £ _____ in the NM Conscience Fund.
My cheque is payable to NM Schroder Unit Trust Managers Ltd.
☐ Please tick this box if you want Income Units, otherwise you will be allocated Accumulation Units where income is automatically reinvested.
☐ Please tick this box if you want details of our Regular Savings Plan.
☐ Please tick this box if you want details of our Financial Planning Service.

Surname _____
First Names _____
Address _____
Postcode _____
Signature _____

'Savings are safe'

The planned Woolwich and Gateway building societies merger, announced this week, is the biggest since the Nationwide and Anglia teamed up, writes Amanda Pardoe.

The Gateway name will go, and Gateway savers and borrowers will become Woolwich members. The Woolwich has more than two million savers, the Gateway 448,000. Woolwich borrowers total 363,000, while the Gateway has 87,000. Both societies will ask members for approval next March, and the merger is scheduled for June 1.

In practical terms borrowers will notice no change. Both societies have an 11.25 per cent mortgage rate. David Blake, assistant general manager at the Woolwich, says: "Anyone with a Gateway mortgage will become a Woolwich borrower on June 1, and they won't have to worry about any legalities."

On investment, there are differences. The Woolwich Prime Account comes closest to Gateway's Gold Star. Both offer instant access, with an 8 per cent top rate on £20,000 or more. The differences occur on balances under £5,000. The Woolwich is better for the saver with between £500 and £999, while the Gateway is better for someone with £1,000



to £4,999. Notice accounts, however, do vary. The Gateway has just one, Star 60, offering 60 days' notice for a £500 minimum. The current rate is 8 per cent, rising to 8.25 per cent for sums of more than £20,000, paid annually. In contrast, the Woolwich has two 90-day accounts: one paying 7.75 per cent half-yearly for £500 or more, the other 8.5 per cent a year, with a guaranteed differential for investments of £10,000 or more.

These apart, the Woolwich has Cash Base, and the Gateway has the Pathfinder cheque account in conjunction with the Bank of Scotland. Mr Blake says no major decision on the range of savings accounts has been made yet. One or two accounts may be phased out, or the merged society may launch a new range. Mr Blake says: "Savings are safe."

M&G OFFERS

- Please tick for details
- ☐ **Unit Trusts** offer managed investment in British and overseas stock markets for £1,000 or more.
 - ☐ **PEP** You can invest in the M&G Unit Trust Personal Equity Plan for £35 a month or £420 a year, with valuable tax advantages and no extra charges.
 - ☐ **Savings Plan** enables you to invest in unit trusts from £25 a month with no extra charges.
 - ☐ **Planned Income Portfolio** provides ten income payments spread through the year from an investment of £2,500 or more.
 - ☐ **Flexible Pension Plan** for anyone who is self-employed or not in an employer's pension scheme; you get complete tax relief on contributions.
 - ☐ **6-67% net+Cheque Book** equivalent to a gross compounded annual rate of 9.43% (correct at time of going to press). High Interest Cheque Account with Kleinwort Benson Limited, administered by M&G as agents. Minimum initial deposit £2,500.
 - ☐ **PERSONAL** ☐ **COMPANY/OTHER**
 - ☐ **The M&G Year Book** gives details of all the above services, as well as our Share Exchange Scheme.
 - ☐ **Independent Financial Advice** If you would like independent professional advice, please give your daytime telephone number and we will arrange for a broker (ie not an M&G representative) to contact you.
- DAYTIME TEL. NO. _____

To: The M&G Group, M&G House, Victoria Road, Chelmsford CM1 1FB. Tel: (0245) 266266.

Mr/Ms/Miss INITIALS _____
SURNAME _____
ADDRESS _____
POST CODE _____
DCBL _____ Member of the Unit Trust Association
This offer is available to residents of the Republic of Ireland

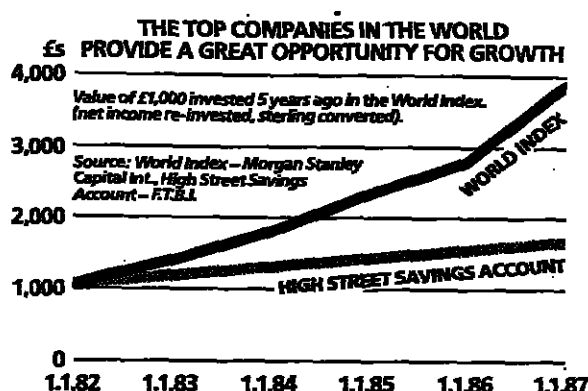
THE M&G GROUP

YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO INVEST IN THE WORLD'S MOST EXCITING COMPANIES

Recent privatisations of nationalised industries and the opening of overseas stock markets have made owning shares easier and more popular. Flotations like those of British Telecom, British Gas, Rolls-Royce and TSB, have attracted millions of new investors. More people now own shares and appreciate their benefits than at any time in history.

But such flotations are only a small part of the picture worldwide. Investment opportunities exist in many other major companies throughout the world – in companies such as IBM, Honda, Nestlé, Marks and Spencer, Mitsubishi, McDonalds, Coca-Cola and many many more.

The chart below illustrates this by comparing the performance of the world's top companies with a typical high street savings account.



Unfortunately, investing directly into stocks and shares, to any worthwhile degree, is usually too risky or too expensive for most people. Indeed, many people have already seen their share applications scaled down dramatically and profits reduced by the costs involved in buying and selling shares.

There is an easier and safer way of investing in stocks and shares. And that's through a unit trust.

HOW A UNIT TRUST WORKS

A unit trust is really just a collection of professionally managed stocks and shares.

When you invest in a unit trust, your money is pooled with that of other investors to form the funds of the trust. These funds are then used to buy a wide range of stocks and shares, thus increasing potential profits and spreading the risks.

Depending on how much you invest in the trust, you will receive so many "units". Then, as the value of the stocks and shares within the trust moves up or down, the value of your units moves with it. It's as simple as that.

Over the last 10 years, the average unit trust has provided considerably greater returns than the average high street savings account. This is probably why more and more money is being invested into unit trusts – even more than building societies in recent months.

For the best returns, you should view a unit trust as a medium to long term investment. You should always remember that, just like shares, the value of units and the income from them can go down as well as up.

ROYAL ANNOUNCE THE LAUNCH OF THREE NEW UNIT TRUSTS

This new issue from Royal Life Fund Management gives you an investment opportunity more exciting and versatile than any single share issue.

Quite simply, the "Royal Event" is about investing in a wide spread of companies which, when harnessed together in a unit trust, have the potential to be exciting performers in the world's stock markets.

It consists of three unit trusts which offer different levels of risk and reward. You can invest as much – or as little as you like – subject to a minimum of £250 in each trust selected. Furthermore, if you invest a total of £500 or more you will receive a 1% discount on the price of units.

THE ROYAL INTERNATIONAL CAUTIONARY TRUST

The objective of this trust is to outperform the total returns from a typical high street savings account by providing a combination of income and capital growth. Twice a year you will receive an income payment.

The trust aims to offer a high degree of security and will invest primarily into fixed interest and

THE
ROYAL
LIFE FUND MANAGERS
EVENT
OCT 1987

OFFER FOR SALE

BY ROYAL LIFE FUND MANAGEMENT LIMITED
Trustee to the issue: CHASE MANHATTAN TRUSTEES LIMITED
Under Offer For Sale in the United Kingdom

Units in the Royal Life International Cautionary Trust at 50p each
Units in the Royal Life International Growth Trust at 50p each
Units in the Royal Life International Speculative Trust at 50p each

1% DISCOUNT

Units purchased during the initial offer period, which closes at 5 p.m. on Wednesday 30 September 1987, will be offered to investors at 50p per unit. However, if you invest £500 or more, a discounted price of 49.5p per unit (a discount of 1%) will apply.

Unlike some share issues there will be no balloting or scaling down of applications. The Managers guarantee that all applications will be honoured in full.

similar securities (e.g. government bonds). The balance of the trust's funds, normally no more than 40%, will be invested in top company shares around the world which have produced consistently good returns.

THE ROYAL INTERNATIONAL GROWTH TRUST

The International Growth Trust will aim to give you significant growth with an acceptable degree of risk. Its objective is to outperform the FT-Actuaries World Index (a compilation of the world's top 2,500 largest companies) over the medium to long term.

The strategy will be to invest largely in the shares of international "blue chip" companies with a long established reputation for steady profits and growth. For example, major companies like Marks and Spencer, ICI, Ford and Kawasaki to name but a few.

A limited proportion of the trust will be invested for even more rapid growth in "secondary" world stock markets such as Taiwan and in companies set for major recovery.

The International Growth Trust's balance between security and risk should prove to be ideal for the majority of investors and particularly for first-time investors.

THE ROYAL INTERNATIONAL SPECULATIVE TRUST

This trust will aim for really outstanding capital growth, far in excess of ordinary high street investments, by adopting an adventurous investment strategy.

The Managers will seek out exciting companies worldwide and will be free to move swiftly and aggressively between all markets, exploiting new trends and sudden market changes. The portfolio may also include traded options and warrants, where appropriate.

With such a strategy the risk and potential rewards are both obviously high – this trust is only for the investor who is prepared, and can afford, to take greater risks in pursuit of spectacular returns.

THE ROYAL EVENT AROUND THE WORLD

Each of the Royal Life trusts is an international trust, investing in stocks, shares and securities around the world. This gives them an advantage over single share issues or more specialised trusts concentrating on one country, currency or sector. The Managers therefore have the facility to take full advantage of any investment opportunity that arises, anywhere in the world.

Furthermore, whilst currency movements can result in losses as well as gains, the Managers can protect the returns of each trust by "hedging" any currency risk.

Clearly, you should not expect an instant price leap when dealings commence. But for discerning investors, this will be more than offset by the excellent prospects for capital growth in the medium to long term.

Remember, the value of your unit holdings and the income from them can fall as well as rise.

THE ROYAL PEDIGREE

To many people Royal is a household name. Established in 1845, the Royal Group now deals with all forms of personal finance, insurance and investment. Currently, it manages assets in excess of £11 billion and is represented in over 80 countries.

Royal have brought together a team of highly experienced professionals to manage the three new unit trusts. In addition they will be able to draw on the resources of Royal's worldwide network of branches and investment centres. They can also call upon expertise from independent stockbrokers and analysts from the world's financial centres, as and when appropriate.

YOUR INVESTMENT CHOICE

As you can see, there are three international unit trusts offered for sale. In terms of reward, one is aiming for security, one growth and one a more speculative investment.

Each person is different. But most people will find that their needs can be met by one single investment in the Royal Life International Growth Trust.

To apply, simply complete the application, in full, indicating the trust(s) in which you wish to invest. Please remember the minimum investment in any one trust is £250, but there is a special 1% discount on the initial price of units if you invest a total of at least £500.

Then return the application, together with your cheque made payable to Royal Life Fund Management Ltd to: The Royal Event, P.O. Box 34, FREEPOST, Peterborough, PE2 0UE. No stamp is required.

DON'T MISS THE EVENT OF 1987

Post your application today – the initial offer closes at 5 p.m. on 30 September 1987. And don't forget to enclose your cheque. Investments received after this date will be issued at the offer price ruling on receipt of your application.

We aim to despatch a contract note, confirming your investment, seven days after the official price is first published on 7 October 1987 – and your Unit Certificate, which confirms your ownership of the units, will follow during November.

Should you need any further help in completing your application, phone Royal (free of charge) on 0800 626 563. Lines will be open 7 days a week, 8 a.m. to 9 p.m.

ANSWERS TO SOME IMPORTANT QUESTIONS

WHAT ARE THE CHARGES?

Once only, at the time of your original investment, we make an initial charge of 5.25% for administration. Then, each year, we charge only 1% (plus VAT) of the value of your investment to manage it, although the Trust Deed permits this to be increased to 1.5% (plus VAT) subject to giving unit holders 3 months' prior written notice. These charges are automatically deducted from your investment. No additional payment is required by you. Remuneration is paid to approved intermediaries at rates which are available on request.

WHEN CAN I SELL MY UNITS?

Whilst unit trusts should be treated as a medium to long term investment, you can sell your units at any time. Indeed, we are obliged by law to buy your units back from you on demand at the "bid" price ruling on the day you wish to sell. To sell, you simply fill in the back of your certificate and post it to us. It usually takes about a week from the day we receive your certificate for you to get your money.

Unlike shares you do not need to deal through a stockbroker or other share dealing house and no charges are payable by you on realisation.

HOW CAN I FIND OUT HOW MUCH MY INVESTMENT IS WORTH?

You will receive a certificate which shows the number of units bought in each trust. The prices and yields of these units are calculated daily and appear in the financial press. They will first be published on 7 October 1987.

WHO ARE THE MANAGERS?

The Managers and Registrar to the Trusts are Royal Life Fund Management Limited, (Registered Office P.O. Box 30, New Hall Place, Liverpool L69 3HS, Registered No. 1609627).

The Managers may use all investments and investment techniques which may be authorised for investment by unit trusts in the future, provided they are consistent with the investment objectives of the respective trust and the Managers consider their use to be in the interest of the unit holders.

The stocks and shares quoted as examples in this prospectus are typical of the securities that will be held in the three trusts. The securities mentioned may not necessarily be included in the trusts as our view of various shares and markets will change as time passes.

CAN I TAKE AN INCOME?

Yes. If you invest in the Cautionary Trust, which aims to combine capital growth with a degree of rising income, you will receive income payments twice a year – on 15 April and 15 October. The first payment will be made on 15 October 1988. The estimated gross initial income yield for the Cautionary Trust is 4.26% p.a.

The aim of the Growth and Speculative Trusts is to achieve substantial capital growth and all net income is automatically re-invested. Investors in these trusts will receive a tax deduction certificate and a report from the Managers in August (Growth) and May (Speculative) each year.

Reflecting their objectives of capital growth, the estimated gross initial income yields on the Growth and Speculative Trusts are relatively low; they are 0.64% p.a. and 0.43% p.a. respectively.

WHAT IS THE TAX POSITION?

Basic rate tax (currently 27%) is deducted only from income payments, whether withdrawn or re-invested. If you pay basic rate tax, there is no further tax on income (just like a building society). If you pay higher rate tax, you will be required to pay some more tax at the end of the year.

However, unlike building society investments, non-taxpayers can reclaim income tax which has already been deducted.

The first £6,600 of realised chargeable gains in any one tax year is free of all taxes. In the longer term the rate of inflation can be applied to reduce any chargeable gains.

WHAT IS THE ROLE OF THE TRUSTEE?

The Trustee is appointed to hold the assets of the trusts, to safeguard the interests of all unit holders and has overall responsibility to ensure that the rules of the trusts are being kept. The Trustee is Chase Manhattan Trustees Limited, P.O. Box 16, Woolgate House, Coleman Street, London EC2P 2HD.

The Trusts are authorised by the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry and classified as wider range investments under the Trustee Investment Act, 1961.

Note: The units and the trusts have not been registered under the appropriate US legislation and units may therefore not be offered, sold or delivered directly or indirectly in the US or to a US person.

ROYAL EVENT APPLICATION FORM

OFFER CLOSING 30 SEPTEMBER 1987
1% DISCOUNT FOR £500 OR MORE

The Royal Event of 1987.
P.O. Box 34, FREEPOST, Peterborough PE2 0UE.
PLEASE USE BLOCK CAPITALS

First Applicant Surname (Mr/Mrs/Ms/Ms)	
Forename(s) in full	
Second Applicant (if Trust(s) is to be in joint names) Surname (Mr/Mrs/Ms/Ms)	
Forename(s) in full	
Address of First Applicant	
Postcode	

Do you currently hold any Unit Trusts? Yes ☐ No ☐ Shares? Yes ☐ No ☐
I wish to invest (minimum £250 per trust) and enclose my/our cheque for the total made payable to Royal Life Fund Management Limited.

£	in the Royal International Cautionary Trust
£	in the Royal International Growth Trust
£	in the Royal International Speculative Trust
£	Total Investment

I declare that I am over 18 years of age and I am not a US national or a resident of Eire.

Signature(s) (All applicants must sign)	Date
	/Sept 1987
	/Sept 1987

Name of Financial Adviser (if any)	
For office use only	Code

Royal Life Fund Management Limited
Registered Office: P.O. Box 30, New Hall Place, Liverpool L69 3HS, Registered No. 1609627
A MEMBER OF THE UNIT TRUST ASSOCIATION

FAMILY MONEY/6

How to be careful with cover

INSURANCE

CONAL GREGORY examines rates and discounts on house contents insurance

Returning from holiday to discover a break-in is quite shattering. The subsequent claim can also be difficult, with memories sometimes confused over the range of goods or their age and hence possible deterioration.

While "new for old" cover (meaning the replacement value with no reduction for wear, tear and depreciation) has become standard for insurance companies, they are worried by the number and extent of claims. To encourage those who take security precautions, several are offering attractive discounts or additional benefits.

Insurance companies cost the contents premium on the basis of your home's postal code. Most have seven area ratings. Rural counties are generally the lowest rated, and the second category is for such places as Blackburn, Hemel Hempstead, Halifax, Reading and most of Edinburgh. The districts of Avon, Cleveland, Essex, Kent, Middlesex and Wales rate slightly higher, while central London, Glasgow and Liverpool attract the top premium.

Do compare rates. Sun Alliance charges 85p per £100 for central Leeds but Norwich Union charges only 60p.

The premium is higher if a house is left unoccupied at regular intervals - day or night. Shopping and similar absences can be ignored. There may also be higher rates if the contents covered are in a building which is not of conventional construction.

Take care when costing your contents that any gold and silver articles, including plated articles, jewellery, wat-

ches, clocks, furs, pictures, sculptures, other works of art and collections of stamps, medals and coins do not exceed 25 per cent or 33 per cent of the total value, depending on the company's conditions - otherwise it will limit liability.

Any single item is often restricted to 10 per cent of the overall sum insured. Valuables should be itemized and regularly updated by professionals to ensure you are fully indemnified after a claim.

There are three ways to reduce premiums, apart from shopping around. First, you can choose to pay the first amount of each claim, known as the "voluntary excess". Several companies offer a 5 per cent discount for a £25 excess, 7.5 per cent on £50 and 15 per cent for not claiming the first £100. You can also introduce security measures and gain a discount by not claiming at all.

Home security discounts are becoming a regular feature of contents policies. Cornhill will give complimentary deep-freeze cover of £200 and

Free advice service from the police

insure personal money loss up to £250 if you comply with the recommendations of the local crime prevention officer, whose services are free. He or she can be contacted through the nearest main police station.

Royal Insurance Home Shield policy offers a 15 per cent discount if you have an alarm installed by one of the nine main alarm companies and it is backed up by a suitable physical security and maintenance contract. As an alternative, the same company offers 5 per cent off contents and personal possessions premiums where



Devastation: Burglaries are heart-breaking but the right insurance can soften the blow

houses are protected by an alarm system installed by a member of NSCIA, the body supervising alarm installations, and serviced by an annual maintenance contract.

Royal also give a further 5 per cent if you join your Neighbourhood Watch Scheme run in association with the police.

Norwich Union gives a 10 per cent discount for a burglar alarm installed by an NSCIA firm, plus 5 per cent for good quality BSI-approved mortice deadlocks and 2.5 per cent for windows with security devices and membership of a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme.

Now another form of discount has entered the market - a no-claims discount, similar to car insurance. Municipal General Insurance, a subsidiary of Municipal Mutual, has launched its Houseplus 2 policy, which provides automatic index linking and a 25 per cent no-claims discount. The minimum cover is £10,000, and the policy is written in units of £2,500 for home contents, which includes £250 all-risks cover and £25 of freezer cover.

The no-claims discount means premiums range from £8.06 (£10.75 without NCD) in Bournemouth, through to £24 (£32 without NCD) in

London W2 for every £2,500 of cover.

The spate of thefts and burst pipes in recent years has scared insurance companies off no-claims discounts, and the uncommercial nature of providing this innovation caused both General Accident and Eagle Star Insurance to drop their policies designed to give such reductions.

One overriding problem is the onus placed by insurance companies on policyholders

Discover the payment record

to ensure they keep their inventories up to date.

While it is sensible to keep a list, room by room, lodged with your bank or solicitor, several building societies are taking the worry out of giving block cover and index linking.

A good example is the Halifax Building Society, which lets contents policies be covered up to £30,000.

Finally, check with brokers about the payment record of insurers. Some are prompt and helpful. Others are noted for their delaying tactics, which may be an important consideration when a loss or damage has been sustained.

The experts at moving fast

RELOCATION

Search agencies, in contrast to the large established corporate relocation companies, are retained specifically for the busy, and usually well-off, individual purchaser, happy to pay an initial fee of a few hundred pounds, plus at least 1 per cent of the eventual purchase price, to a firm qualified to do the groundwork and initial inspections of suitable properties.

When you consider that estate agents take their commission, usually 2 per cent, from the vendor, and are seemingly ever-willing to deluge inquirers with sales details, employing a search agency does not seem to be such sound financial practice.

But when the money is compared with the loss of business hours incurred by fruitless inspections of totally unsuitable properties, the sense of the search agency becomes apparent.

Vanessa Watts is a director of West Country Quest, based in Bournemouth, Dorset. As she explains, her company sifts the wheat from the chaff sent out by estate agents and, because of its professional contacts within its own area - Somerset, Avon, Dorset and Wiltshire - it often hears about instructions from agents before they come on to the market.

She says: "Agents know we will respond quickly when we are given new property details, and we always prepare a dossier of our clients before starting to look on their behalf. Many agents use computers nowadays - this is all very well but computers cannot adapt to a purchaser's totally individual requirements."

"We are constantly in our local agents' offices because the market is moving so fast. We can weed out suitable properties and move quickly. Before I take my client around a property I do a preliminary check with the local planning office that, for example, a road-widening scheme isn't imminent."

"The expertise we can offer initially is that we know the area we cover, we can advise on transport, schools and local builders. These are all important to the busy executive, who can spend half a day coming from London to inspect just one property."

Like most house-search agencies, West Country Quest (0747 840257), a member of the Association of Relocation Agents, can offer the purchaser a complete buying package once the right property is subject to contract. This includes an introduction to a source of finance.

The Association of Relocation Agents (0235 850079), which now has 155

members, was founded a year ago by its chairman, Keith Ladbroke, as a non-profit-making, self-regulatory body that now has its own code of practice and which can supply a list of members in specific locations to house-hunters.

The requirements of newly introduced members include evidence of successful trading for at least six months. This is provided by the firm's bankers, accountants and solicitors, plus estate agents in conjunction with whom they have worked.

Mr Ladbroke says: "The house-hunting service is now a major force. In 1982 there were, to my knowledge, six such companies, and in 1984 around 100. Today there are some 600 in total. I started my own company, Ladbroke Property Services, three years ago and the success of such companies is best illustrated by a recent client of mine."

"A professional couple, both working in financial services, had spent six months searching unsuccessfully for a country house. The wife is self-employed and so lost a great deal of business while looking. They retained me and within a few weeks I showed them three houses. They liked two, bought one and moved in two months. The fee was an initial £250 plus 1 per cent of the purchase price."

Diana Wildman

This advertisement is issued in compliance with the Regulations of The Stock Exchange.

Nationwide Anglia Building Society

(Incorporated in England under the Building Societies Act 1874)

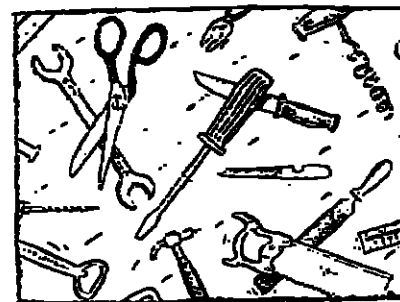
Placing of £20,000,000 10½ per cent Bonds due 26th September, 1988

Listing for the bonds has been granted by the Council of The Stock Exchange. Listing Particulars in relation to The Nationwide Anglia Building Society are available in the Exel Statistical Services. Copies may be collected from Companies Announcements Office, P.O. Box No. 119, The Stock Exchange, London EC2P 2BT until 22nd September, 1987 and until 5th October, 1987.

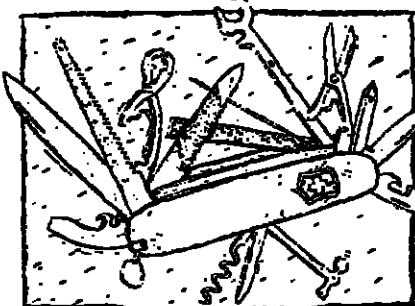
Fulton Prebon Sterling Ltd.,
34-40 Ludgate Hill,
London EC4M 7JT

Rowe & Pitman Ltd.,
1 Finsbury Avenue,
London EC2M 2PA

19th September, 1987



CANNON LINCOLN'S DESIGNER UNIVERSAL LIFE PLAN. WE PROVIDE THE OPTIONS, YOU MAKE THE CHOICE.



Whatever stage of life and career you've reached, one thing is certain: your current situation will not stay the same. New things will develop, which is why Cannon Lincoln created the Designer Universal Life Plan - a new kind of personal savings and life assurance plan so flexible it can adapt to just about any future eventuality.

Designer Universal Life acts as a foundation upon which to build your financial future. It is not a rigid contract. On the contrary, it is so adjustable - and can be tailored so exactly to your personal needs - you might have designed it yourself!

SHEER FLEXIBILITY

At any time the emphasis of your Designer Plan can be switched from 'protection' to 'savings', or vice versa. You can also change your investment strategy across a range of fund options.

You can withdraw all or part of your investment at any time - completely free of basic income tax or capital gains tax.

And if your circumstances require you can stop contributions for a while, or, if you wish, you can invest a lump sum at any time, even as a start-up contribution.

PROTECTION AGAINST SERIOUS ILLNESS

One of several optional benefits available with Designer Universal Life is Cannon Lincoln's important new Critical Illness Cover. You will be paid a substantial cash sum immediately on diagnosis of certain serious illnesses.

Which means instant help for you and your family in a crisis, while the rest of your life cover remains in effect.

A unique range of options - that's what Cannon Lincoln's Designer Life Plan offers you. Take up the most important option of all - complete the freepost coupon or contact your personal financial adviser for more information right now.



CANNON LINCOLN

1 OLYMPIC WAY, WEMBLEY, MIDDLESEX HA9 0BN TELEPHONE 01-902 8876

CANNON LINCOLN. THE OPTION THAT KEEPS YOUR OPTIONS OPEN.

I wish to receive more information about Cannon Lincoln's unique Designer Life Plan with Critical Illness Cover.

NAME _____ ADDRESS _____

POST CODE _____

SEND TO: FREEPOST, LINTON PENMAN, CANNON LINCOLN, 1 OLYMPIC WAY, WEMBLEY, MIDDLESEX HA9 0BN. TEL: 01-902 8876

T/D/L

An investment in performance

The most important criterion by which unit trusts can be judged and compared is performance.

Past performance, especially over the longer term, is a clear indicator of a fund manager's ability to provide investment returns.



The long term experience and expertise of Perpetual's fund management team is graphically illustrated in the returns that they have achieved for their longest established and largest unit trust; the Perpetual International Growth Fund.

If you had invested £1,000 in the Perpetual International Growth Fund at its launch in 1974, your investment

would have climbed in value to more than £34,000 today.



Perpetual's International Growth Fund was conceived as a managed fund aiming for steady and long term capital growth. And its success in achieving these goals is self-evident.



Drawing on the knowledge of a network of experts based in the major markets of the world, the Perpetual International Growth Fund's aim is to continue to achieve well above-average returns in an ever changing international marketplace. In fact, all of Perpetual's funds have a record of achievement.

Past performance is not, of course, a guarantee of future success. However, long term performance has been the hallmark of Perpetual and our fund managers' reputation for performance

has persuaded more than 80,000 investors to entrust in excess of £600 million to Perpetual.

As we continue to apply our experience to the serious challenge of investment performance, your invested capital

Perpetual's Past Performance

Fund	Launch Date	Annual Compound Growth	Total Inc. since launch
International Growth Fund	11.9.74	31.5%	3,372.0%
Income Fund	16.6.79	22.7%	434.8%
Worldwide Recovery Fund	23.1.82	27.4%	287.6%
American Growth Fund	24.9.83	13.8%	66.2%
International Emerging Companies Fund	22.9.84	29.8%	115.0%
Far Eastern Growth Fund	4.5.85	51.4%	162.0%
European Growth Fund	18.1.86	25.7%	44.6%
U.K. Growth Fund	12.6.87	-	-

All figures are to 31 September 1987, inclusive of income reinvested in the fund and are on an after-tax basis. NB: You should remember that the price of units can go down as well as up.

could increase significantly through the expertise of our fund management team.

Send for further details of Perpetual's range of funds today.

Please send me details of the following (please tick box). Not applicable to residents of Eire.

☐ International Growth Fund ☐ U.K. Growth Fund
☐ Worldwide Recovery Fund ☐ International Emerging Companies Fund
☐ Far Eastern Growth Fund ☐ American Growth Fund
☐ Income Fund ☐ Monthly Savings Plan (From £20 per month)
☐ European Growth Fund

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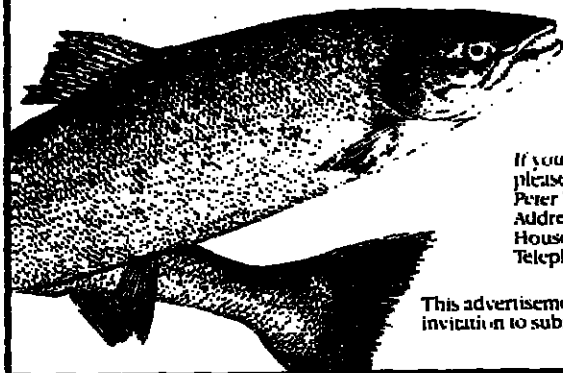
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1986/87 BES RELIEF STILL AVAILABLE IN A SUCCESSFUL ISSUE

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SEA CATCH PLC

- A Scottish company which has already raised over £1½ M of the £2.2M it can accept
- BES relief against 1986/87 income available until 5th October 1987
- BES 3 certificates already available
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Directors:-
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Sir Robin Duthie
Peter Timms MBE
Hugh Currie
Dr Edward Needham

If you would like a copy of the Prospectus please telephone or write to Chris Hicks, Peter Weiss or Jan Hildreth at Minster Trust Address:- Minster Trust Limited, Minster House, Arthur Street, London EC4R 9BH Telephone: 01-623 1050

This advertisement does not constitute an offer or invitation to subscribe for any shares.



BES

AUTUMN 1987

Invest in UK Entrepreneurs

You can do this if you have a minimum of £3,000 to invest under the BUSINESS EXPANSION SCHEME in the current tax year. The next Octagon BES Fund is planned to open for subscriptions on 21st September 1987 and close on 30th October 1987. It is intended that the bulk of the monies will be invested by 5th April 1988.

Unlike a direct BES investment the Fund provides a spread of risk as it will be invested in at least five separate UK companies.

Three features of the Octagon Autumn 1987 BES Fund are:

- It specialises in an industry sector (the 'information industries') in which the Fund's managers (Octagon Investment Management Limited) have considerable experience.
- It will invest in small enterprises, with perceived growth potential, at an early stage of their development.
- The investee companies will gain, through monthly meetings of the 'Octagon Club', from the experience of the other 30 companies already in the Octagon portfolio.

Applications to subscribe to the Fund will only be accepted on the terms and conditions set out in the Memorandum describing the Fund and the application form, a copy of which can be obtained by telephoning (0223) 863033 or by filling in the coupon below.

To Octagon Investment Management Ltd, Cambridge Science Park, Milton Road, Cambridge CB4 4WE. Tel: (0223) 863033

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Investment in unquoted companies carries higher risks as well as the chance of higher rewards. The existence of these risks is one reason why tax relief is available in connection with investment through the Fund

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Investors wait for that vital fifth year

In a special two-page analysis, **LAWRENCE LEVER** assesses the Business Expansion Scheme and its relevance to investors

Next year will be the fifth since the Business Expansion Scheme was launched. Investors who put their money into BES in the early days are going to want to get it back — and more. So how have BES companies performed?

So far we have had more bad news than good. This is only to be expected, however, because the risks associated with unquoted company investment, particularly with start-ups, mean that the failures come sooner than success stories.

"It is inevitable that you get the lemons before the plums," is the way that John Spiers, of BES Investment magazine, puts it.

The BES funds also tend to take a conservative approach to the valuation of the companies in their portfolio, even if they are doing well. Unless a company has actually done a major deal that involves issuing more of its shares at a higher price, they tend to value the fund's stake in the company at cost.

There have been disasters. Electra Risk Capital 1, an £8.6 million fund launched under the Business Start-up Scheme, is perhaps the most infamous. There are only 11 companies left in this fund out of the 32 original ones. Twenty-one of the companies invested in by the fund have either gone into liquidation or are being sold for a nominal sum.

There is a whole host of reasons for the failure of ERIC1, which to some extent is a special situation that has not generally been repeated on such a scale in other funds that raised money under the BES.

There have been other bad performances, however. Biofuels raised £510,000 under the BES in November 1984. It lasted only about a year, going into liquidation with debts of more than £600,000. BES investors lost all their money.

Buckmaster Development Fund raised £1 million in 1984 and invested it in seven companies. Three of them, which accounted for £483,000 of the money raised, went into liquidation.

Interestingly, Mr Spiers thinks some of the BES companies that are touted as safe asset-backed schemes have not performed very well. Remember the farming ventures and the wine companies. Asset-backing was all the rage as if having assets somehow meant that you could not lose them.

Not so, however. Farmland has plummeted in value since the heady days of 1983 and early 1984 when investors poured money into farming BES companies.

Obviously there will be individual differences, but Mr Spiers believes that investors in BES farming companies will lose about half their gross investment. In other words, if they put £10,000 in, all of which qualified for tax relief at 50 per cent, they will be back to square one after five years.

Investors in wine companies may do even worse says Mr Spiers. He thinks some of these businesses will go bust.

The problem here is not so much declining values of assets. Rather, the Revenue, rightly annoyed that the spirit of the BES had been abused by wine and other companies, has insisted on applying the rules firmly.

For wine companies this means they must trade. They could not simply build up a stockpile of wine with investors' money, hold on to most of it expecting it to appreciate, and sell it again after five years.

The requirement of trading meant that the wine companies had to sell the wine to retailers or to the public.

"Many companies were not prepared for this," says Mr Spiers. "They did not have the management or the systems to cope with a business which has very low margins. Those which have been successful have been those with good management."

Enough of the bad news, what about the good? John Harrison, editor of *The BES Magazine*, thinks the bad news is over — or at least most of it — and that the good news is coming through.

We have already seen some of it with Capital Ventures, the BES sponsor based in Cheltenham, Gloucestershire. It launched the first ever fund under the BES — the Cave BES fund — which Capital Ventures expects will double in value when its five-year period is up.

BES FUNDS

which they can take without losing their tax break.

And what about Hitech Lighting plc, a manufacturer of low voltage lighting that raised £600,000 towards the end of 1985? It has been enormously successful, undoubtedly the best BES issue to be sponsored by Lancashire & Yorkshire Investment Management.

Shares in the company were originally offered to the public at £1.50 each back in October 1985. They are now changing



Charles Fry: "not all success"

hands at £5.10 each. The company's latest figures show that its profits before tax have increased from £210,000 to £729,000 in the year to March 31, 1987. Hitech will probably be floated on the Unlisted Securities Market.

Johnson Fry also has some so-called successes. CC Conversions, a residential property development company, has recently announced profits before tax of £2.6 million in its second year of trading. Mr Spiers believes investors in this company will make five times their money, ignoring tax relief.

There should be a lot of happy faces around, as the company raised £5 million.

Another Johnson Fry property development company, City Gate Estates, is intending to float on the Unlisted Securities Market next year with its shares placed at around £2.60-£2.80, compared with the £1 for which they were sold at the time of the BES launch when the company raised £3 million.

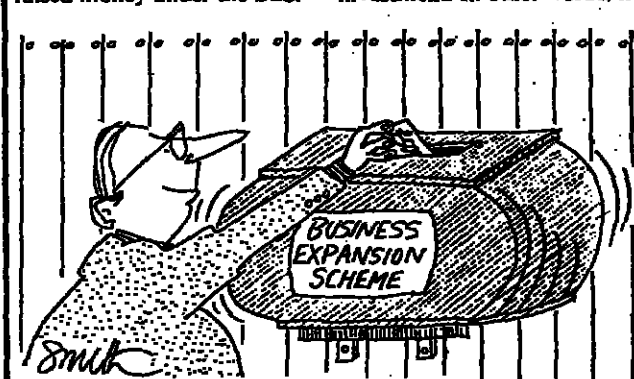
Incidentally, not all Johnson Fry companies have performed this well, as the chairman Charles Fry freely admits. For instance, Johnson Fry rates the Chelsea Restaurants scheme, 1 out of 5 in performance terms on its in-house rating system. The 1 rating means the company is performing "substantially below expectations".

Finally, there is the question of exit routes. Its all very well having shares in a top-performing company. But what if you want to realize your investment?

A few companies will graduate to the Unlisted Securities Market and probably many more to the Third Market. Both will provide exit routes, although the price investors will achieve will depend to an extent on the liquidity of the market in the individual company's shares.

But there is likely to be a whole host of companies whose performance will not warrant a Third Market quotation. Here alternatives will have to be explored, such as procuring a purchaser for the company. It will be interesting to see what prices are offered in these cases.

Some companies, particularly the pure asset plays, will be easy to liquidate. The farmland, wine or property is merely sold and the spoils shared out. How much is left in the pot, however, is another question!



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Send for details, application form and memorandum (on the basis of which, alone, subscriptions can be accepted). Subscription Lists close on 5th November.

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Building on this success, the Company are currently developing a highly innovative wing powered yacht. Planesail 1470 will effortlessly convert the free clean energy of the wind into motion. This high performance forty-eight foot cruising yachtsman is already under construction at the Company's plant in Hamble. Offering the owner total fingertip control without the need for crew and with constant computer protection against capsize, Planesail 1470 will be launched in early 1988.

This advertisement is not an invitation to invest. Applications will only be accepted on the terms of the Prospectus and on completion of the application form within. For your copy of the Prospectus, please telephone Southampton (0703) 454855 or complete and return the coupon.

Tax relief at the individual's highest marginal rate will be available to qualifying investors on subscriptions totalling £500 or more in any given Tax year.

This Offer has already been well subscribed and the issue is therefore expected to close shortly.

Please send me a Walker Wingsail Systems plc Prospectus

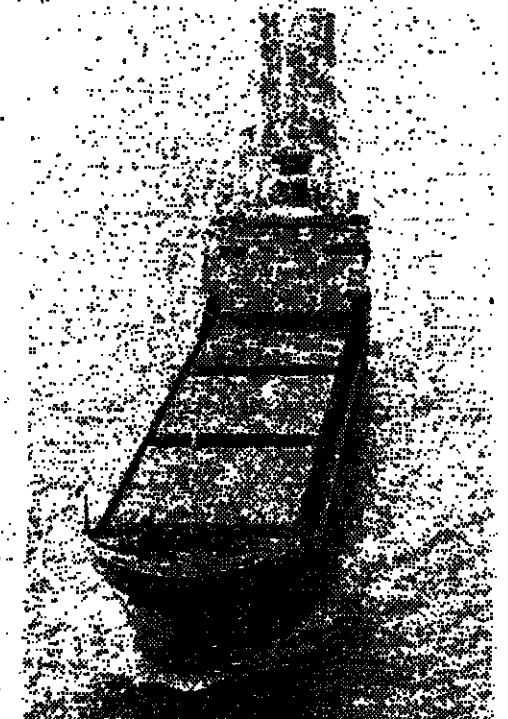
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FAMILY MONEY/8

The tax breaks that beckon

The Business Expansion Scheme was launched in 1983 as the successor to the Business Start-Up Scheme. Both schemes were government initiatives that gave investors in unquoted companies tax relief at their highest rates. Both were aimed at stimulating investment in unquoted companies.

The BES was basically a more flexible scheme than the BSS, which for various reasons proved too restrictive. The BSS was limited to start-up companies — genuinely new ventures.

The Government's real aim

went beyond investment in unquoted companies. It wanted to match investment with risk. In other words the idea was to encourage investors by giving them tax breaks to invest in more risky businesses, which they normally would not touch.

Certain types of business do not qualify under the BES. For instance, companies dealing in shares, banking or insurance companies or a law practice, would not qualify.

In the early days the spirit of the scheme was abused, with money going into "safe" assets

backed companies that owned assets such as farmland, property, or fine wine. Some of these ventures have, however, proved not as "safe" as investors thought.

What are the tax breaks? Basically, a BES investor qualifies for tax relief at his highest rate of income tax on investments of up to £40,000 a year in BES companies.

If you pay income tax at 60 per cent, a £10,000 investment (assuming that at least £10,000 of your income is taxed at 60 per cent) will cost you only £4,000. However, you have to hold on to your BES shares for

at least five years — otherwise you will lose all or part of the tax relief.

The idea is that the company should effectively be confident of having your money for at least five years while it is developing.

Last year's Finance Act introduced a new tax break for investors in BES companies. Any gains investors make when they come to sell their shares will be free of capital gains tax. This applies only to BES shares issued since March 18, 1986. And if you sell your shares within the five-year period you will still be subject to CGT.

This year's finance legislation also introduced a new tax break designed to alleviate the end-of-year bunching that had developed.

Investors tended to wait until the end of the tax year, when they had a clearer idea of their tax position, before deciding which BES company to invest in. This meant that the majority of BES companies were launched in a mighty scramble in the last three months of the tax year.

The 1987 legislation introduced a carry-back provision. This allows you to carry back half of any BES investment that you make in the first six months of a new tax year and offset it against your previous year's tax bill.

However, this is subject to a maximum carry-back of £5,000, and you cannot utilize the carry back provisions if you have already put £40,000 into BES companies in the tax year that has just finished.

Essentially they are pools of money

But assuming that you have not exhausted your maximum tax-relievable BES investment, how do the new provisions work in practice? If you invest £8,000 in a BES venture before October 6 in any year you could carry back £4,000 of it against the previous tax year. But if you invested £12,000 you could carry back only £5,000 — not £6,000, because the Government's £5,000 limit comes into play.

The carry-back provisions were also targeted at the BES funds. Under the BES there are broadly two main ways of investing. You can invest directly in individual companies or put your money in BES funds. You can, of course, do both if you want.

BES funds are essentially pools of money that investors give to a fund manager who invests it in a range of BES companies. The idea is that

BES FUNDS

Cricket, goats, hi-tech

The BES opportunities on offer now are wide-ranging. There are few track records, so you have to consider seriously anything on offer from a sponsor that has already demonstrated the capacity to make handsome returns.

Capital Ventures' record draws attention to its Ensign Group, a builder of upmarket houses. It has already raised money under the scheme twice, and it made £232,000 profits in its last financial year. The directors are forecasting pre-tax profits of at least £355,000 this year.

The expenses are low. Investors are being asked to pay £140 a share. Existing shareholders are being offered shares in a rights issue at £1.10 each. Potential investors should realize that their stake will be diluted by the sponsors and the managing director exercising their share options. Capital Ventures found the deal and made a lot of money for its BES investors, so one must not begrudge it its option over £225,000 shares at 17.5p. The managing director also has options over 12 per cent of the company at £1.10 each.

Charles Fry, of Johnson Fry, has made a lot of money for himself and his BES investors out of his property-backed schemes. Dix Belgravia, a property developer and

secured contractor from the Johnson Fry stable, is seeking a further £6 million to add to the £5 million raised last year.

The issue is cheap and the management experienced, and the company has to show 10 per cent growth per year compounded before the sponsors' options are worth anything. The company is already working on property developments that it values at £9 million on sale. It has secured construction contracts that it estimates are worth £1.6 million.

Angora International, from Johnson Fry, is trying to corner the UK market in breeding for sale high-quality, mohair-producing Angora goats. This is an undeveloped market here but if the company succeeds investors will make a lot of money. If it fails at the end of five years the company will at least be able to sell the goats. Their price would be another question. Johnson Fry is taking its options here at £1, the price investors are being asked to pay now.

The Angora board boasts Lord Plumb of Colehill, a past president of the National Farmers' Union president and now President of the European Parliament.

Industrial Technology Securities is launching its Fourth Industrial Technology Fund — the previous three funds have invested in a total of 15 companies, of which one is in receivership and three are making or are about to make significant profits. It is too early to judge how well the funds themselves will perform but there must be high hopes for the first ITS fund with two companies, accounting for almost half the fund, appearing to be doing very well.

The fund will invest in companies specializing in industrial technology. Up to 5 per cent of your money will be taken by the managers as a management fee. The type of companies will often require considerable involvement. Remember that some companies that market funds charging no management fee do in fact put investors' money into individual BES issues from which they are already receiving fees.

Kent Indoor Cricket is trying to capitalize on the indoor cricket boom. The managing director is the former England spinner, Derek Underwood. The company has a management contract with Indoor Cricket Pavilions, which operates four indoor centres itself.

BUSINESS EXPANSION COMPANIES

Company	Activity	Sponsor	Telephone	Indiv Min	Closing date
Angora Int pto	Angora goats	Johnson Fry	01-439 0924	£1,000	Oct 5
Abercorn Place School	Private school	Chancery Securities	01-439 7171	£250	Oct 20
Captain O & W Watts	Leisure	Palmerston Securities	01-835 5568	£1,200	Sept 30
Dix Belgravia	Property dev/	Johnson Fry	01-439 0924	£1,000	Oct 20
Ensign Group	Secured cont	Capital Ventures	0242 584380	£1,050	Oct 23
Glen App Fisheries	Salmon farming	T C Coombs	01-248 2033	£500	Sept 30
Kent Indoor Cricket	Cricket centres	Minister Trust	01-600 0818	£1,000	Sept 30
Sea Catch	Salmon farm	Minister Trust	01-623 1050	£2,200	Open-ended
Walker Wingsail	Wingsail design	Minister Trust	0703 454855	£105	Open-ended
FUNDS					
3rd Johnson Fry 1987-88	Small companies	Johnson Fry	01-439 0924	£1,000	Open-ended
2nd Johnson Fry MALBO	Company buyouts	Johnson Fry	01-439 0924	£5,000	Open-ended
4th Industrial Tech	High-growth co's	Hill Murray	01-489 0899	£2,500	Nov 5
Centenary VII	Unlisted Companies	Centenary Trust	021-643 3941	£2,500	Oct 6
Mercia VC	Venture capital	Centenary Trust	021 233 3404	£3,000	Open-ended

BUSINESS EXPANSION SCHEME



GLEN APP FISHERIES PLC

Business Expansion Schemes carry certain tax advantages for investors. Potential investors are reminded that under the Finance Act 1987, they may offset up to half of their BES relief against their 1986/87 taxable income. This carry back is subject to a maximum of £5,000 provided relevant shares are issued prior to 5th October 1987.

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Please send me a copy of the Glen App Fisheries PLC Prospectus.

Name (BLOCK CAPITALS)

Address

BES—Why should I invest Now?

Many people leave their BES investments until February or March. Here are three reasons why you should not:

- You will miss some excellent investments.
- You will not be able to "carry back" BES relief to the last (1986/7) tax year if you invest after October 5th.
- Our two current issues, ANGORA INTERNATIONAL plc and DIX BELGRAVIA plc, will both give you BES 3 Tax Certificates shortly following the close of the issues. (If you are a PAYE tax payer, you will have received virtually all your tax rebate before the March investor even starts).

Both of these issues provide TAX RELIEF AT YOUR HIGHEST RATES, ASSET BACKING, EXPERIENCED MANAGEMENT, EXCELLENT PROFIT POTENTIAL and A DEFINED EXIT ROUTE AFTER 5 YEARS.

Angora International can only take £3.2 million and £480,000 of this is being invested by a New Zealand public company. Dix Belgravia raised £5 million last year and is looking for another £6 million.

We are not the leading BES sponsors (over £72 million raised) for nothing. Ask us for a prospectus and find out why.



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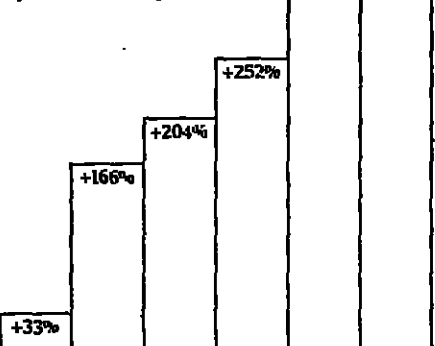
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Family deal to keep everybody happy

Joe is now in his mid-70s and is getting very worried about the prospect of having to take on the responsibilities of home ownership. Throughout his life, he has always lived in rented accommodation, so the problems, and also the profits, of owning his own property have hitherto passed him by.

His main worries seem to centre round the difficulties that he might encounter with the roof, although he is just as

fearful about dilapidated drains, collapsed fences and potentially toppling chimney stacks.

Although most people see home ownership as a virtually surefire way of making easy money, there are many old people who regard bricks and mortar as a financial disaster just waiting to happen.

Unfortunately for Joe, he cannot find any suitable rented accommodation in the area in which he wants to live. There is no sheltered housing, either local authority or private, available, and the private rental sector has nowadays more or less vanished.

Joe, however, is very lucky in having two daughters who are prepared to help out and share the responsibilities of buying and running his home. He has managed to find a suitable flat costing about £25,000. Over the years, his daughters have built up total savings of about £20,000. They are prepared to borrow the balance of £5,000 needed to complete the purchase.

The question now arises: How should the transaction be organized?

If Joe was prepared to buy the flat himself, the situation would be very straightforward. Any increase in the value of his flat would be free of capital gains tax, so long as it remains his only or main residence. He could also raise a loan of up to £30,000 and get tax relief on the interest. He could even borrow some of the money from his daughters.

The value will increase in Joe's lifetime

Joe's only drawback in owning the property would be that as it increases in value it will boost the value of his estate for inheritance tax. But because Joe's estate is well within the current nil rate band of £90,000, inheritance tax is unlikely to be a problem either now or in the future.

However, Joe does not want to own the flat; so what problems would arise if his daughters bought it instead? CGT at 30 per cent on the ultimate profit is probably the most serious potential problem confronting them in the long term.

Joe comes from a long-lived family and it is quite likely that he will live for another 10

or 15 years. During this time the flat will almost certainly increase in value.

If CGT does apply to the profit, there are still some basic reliefs that will help to cut down the impact of the tax. Inflation relief will mean that only the amount of the gain that actually exceeds the rate of inflation will be subject to CGT.

For instance, if prices, as measured by the increase in the Retail Price Index, double during the period of ownership, the flat's original base cost for working out CGT will also be doubled - from £25,000 to £50,000. So if the value of the flat increases to £70,000, only £20,000 of the profit will be taxable.

A dependent relative who pays no rent

Then there is the small gains exemption. Each sister has her own exemption whereby she can realize a certain level of total net taxable gains on a tax-free basis. This year the exemption is £5,600 but the chances are that this amount will continue to be increased year by year.

Nevertheless, CGT remains a big long-term problem, especially if house prices continue to increase significantly faster than the Retail Price Index.

Fortunately, there is a valuable exemption which could come to the rescue of Joe and his daughters. His daughters own the property on a CGT-free basis, so long as Joe can qualify as their dependent relative and he does not pay any rent. If you want to check out the letter of the law on this or quote it as authority, the reference is Capital Gains Tax Act 1979, section 105.

A husband and wife are allowed only one such dependent relative between them but this is not a problem in the case of Joe's family. But what constitutes a dependent relative for these purposes?

Women who are living alone are privileged for these purposes; they simply need to be widowed, separated or divorced and their children or in-laws will escape CGT on their home.

In contrast, couples or single men do not automatically qualify. In the words of the section, they need to be "any



relative of the taxpayer or spouse incapacitated by old age or infirmity from maintaining himself."

There are no particular limits on the relative's income or financial position. The chances are that Joe will qualify, but it may be worth checking the position with the local tax inspector, though the taxman is under no obligation to give an advance ruling.

The condition that Joe should not pay any rent to his daughters need not necessarily preclude him from chipping in for such expenses as rates, normal wear and tear on the property or even a contribu-

tion towards the mortgage payments.

Indeed, Joe's daughters will be able to get tax relief on the mortgage interest payments so long as they have not both used up their own £30,000 mortgage interest limits. The rules on mortgage interest in these circumstances closely follow the CGT conditions.

So Joe's daughters could almost certainly buy his flat for him without suffering any tax liabilities and the chances are that in the end it will turn out to be a very profitable investment for them both.

Danby Bloch and Raymond Godfrey

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No doubt many of them will have been happy to spend money like water while they were away, but once back home they will be forced to think of how they are going to repay the all debts they have run up.

Some holidaymakers, of course, will have either taken more spending money than they needed, or will have used a credit card as an alternative. For those people who manage not to spend all their travellers' cheques, it is worth bearing in mind that the charge for encashment varies from one bank to another.

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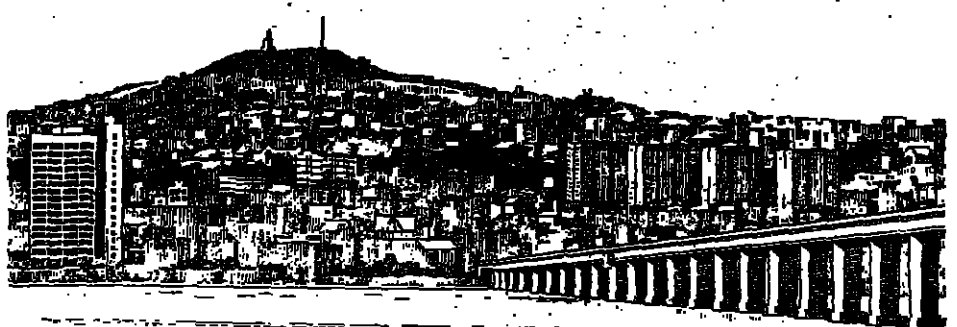
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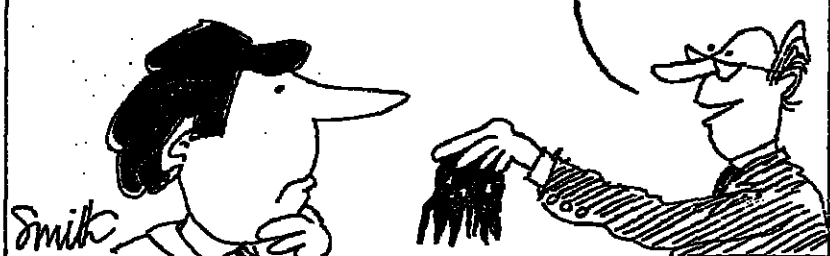
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LEGAL AND FINANCIAL

Keeping it in the family

One of the advantages of creating a legal dynasty is that you can test speeches on partners and children, but there is the risk of boring shop-talk, says Edward Fennell

IT'S WHAT'S LEFT OF YOUR GREAT-GREAT-GREAT-GREAT-GRANDFATHER'S BLACK CAP...



There are few things lawyers like better than keeping the profession in the family. Great dynasties of both solicitors and barristers have been established and flourished while political parties, empires and even football clubs have crumbled into decay. It is always reassuring, for example, to see that generation after generation of Hogg and Havers follow each other into the courts. And the family of Lord Denning is liberally sprinkled with barristers and legal expertise.

Even among major city firms the spirit of dynastic succession is not dead. At Rowe & Maw, for instance, the senior partner is Nigel Graham Maw, whose father established the firm way back in 1895.

But that achievement, significant though it is, pales when contrasted with the traditional country practice of Rutter & Rutter in Wiltshire which is now in the hands of the sixth generation.

"We like to think of ourselves as a family firm and our clients are the responsibility of the family," explained Fenton Rutter whose son Charles has recently become a partner.

Rutter & Rutter covers a wide area of Wiltshire from their offices in Mere and Wincanton. And to add even greater lustre to the family name they have as near neighbours in Dorset their Rutter cousins, who are now into their fifth generation of solicitors. In the interests of British Telecom let us hope they don't merge - Rutter, Rutter, Rutter & Rutter might just be one Rutter too many for even directory inquiries to handle.

Of course, not every son or daughter necessarily follows naturally into the family business. One of the most famous renegades against parental pressure was James Boswell whose father, Lord Auchinleck, like his father before him, had been a distinguished Edinburgh advocate.

Indeed Lord Auchinleck "took the double gown," which made him one of the five judges of the High Court of Justiciary. Imagine his despair then, as his footloose son insisted on wasting his time among the literary set of London.

But reflect on the even greater despondency of Boswell himself when he

briefly consented to train as a civil lawyer at Utrecht University. All his friends advised against it. "The Doctor, was passionate with me for insisting on a gayer place," recorded Boswell in his journal, and his friend Cochrane a few days later "gave a dreary account" of the City and its university. In the event, of course, the law's loss was literature's gain.

Fenton Rutter's son, unlike Boswell, needed no such urging. "I never suggested it to him as a career," explained the father. "One day he just came home and announced that he wanted to train as a solicitor in order to help people who were in trouble. And that was exactly what he did."

Of course, the more lawyers there are in the family the more likely it is that the dinner table becomes a centre for constant shop talk.

Fascinating to hear other people's judgments

"Many of our friends are in the law as well, so of course it is a major topic of conversation," explained Penelope Peace who, like her husband Nigel, is a barrister. "For example, we often compare judgments, and it is always fascinating to hear what other people make of the cases we've been involved in."

The biggest asset of being married to a lawyer, however, says Penelope is that on the night before a major case your partner can understand exactly what your feelings are.

"I just don't think that anyone who wasn't a barrister would be able to empathise or give moral support in the same way as Nigel does for me or I do for him," insisted Penelope. "I think that kind of a professional bond is a real plus in a marriage."

Of course there can also be practical benefits. "We often try out our big speeches on each other," said Penny. "And see where the weaknesses may lie. Again that's something one couldn't do so well if one's spouse wasn't a lawyer."

Beverley and Andrew Napier enjoy similar advantages. Both are solicitors.

Beverley until recently in private practice and Andrew in local government. Again, when Andrew has been under a lot of pressure in particularly tricky cases, Beverley's understanding of the situation has made her moral support much more powerful. "Also from time to time we come to each other for advice and to pick each other's brains over difficult problems."

Now that Beverley has given up full-time employment to look after a couple of young children, their joint legal background is coming in especially useful.

"We thought that we would run a conveyancing business on the side," said Beverley, "although of course it tends to be me who does most of the work. We haven't advertised or anything like that. But simply by putting the word about a bit and because Andrew has mentioned it to several people at the council, the work just seems to pour in."

In fact, Beverley has to work very hard to keep both children and conveyancing up and running. But for both their sakes it's worth it. If demand continues to grow it could provide the basis for a jointly-run family business in the long-term.

"I feel the marriage is stronger because we share a common base," said Andrew. "I think that it gives us an extra sense of security that this is something important that we've got in common."

Of course, it is what they have in common which brings these lawyers together in the first place. Some friends of Penelope's and Nigel's actually met in court when the woman, a solicitor, was instructing the man, who was the barrister in the case.

Penelope and Nigel themselves met outside of the law but their common profession gave them an immediate bond as part of the complex jigsaw of personal relationships.

As for Beverley and Andrew, they were on the same undergraduate law course which has now shaped both their domestic and social arrangements.

Not all marriages are made in heaven but clearly quite a few are made in court. And that is only sensible. After all, you clearly cannot beat the lawyer - all you can do is marry them.

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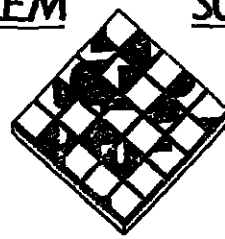
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Day

Evening

Occupation

Annual basic salary £.....

Guaranteed overtime/bonus £.....

How long in present job?

If remortgage, amount outstanding

Mortgage required £.....

Type of property

flat/house

I/we declare that all the information above is true.

Please send me/us an illustration for mortgage/remortgage without any obligation.

Signature

Date

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Address

Date of birth

Tel No:

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Evening

Occupation

Annual basic salary £.....

Guaranteed overtime/bonus £.....

How long in present job?

Purchase price/valuation £.....

If leasehold, number of unexpired years

Signature

Date

RUGBY UNION: THE INCEPTION OF THE CLUBS CHAMPIONSHIP FINDS TOP TEAMS UNDER THE COMPETITIVE YOKE

Bradford repeat previous success

Schools rugby by Michael Stevenson

The Hull University Schools festival, held over the weekend, was won for the second successive year by Bradford Grammar School, who defeated Merthistown Castle School in a keenly contested final (11-0). John Burgess, the RFU president, attended the festival.

It was the fifth year that the festival has been held and more than 500 boys competed in 60 games, making it one of the largest of its kind; both finalists were extended in the semi-finals. Bradford by QEGS, Wakefield by (4-0), and Merthistown Castle by Warwick School (8-3).

RGS High Wycombe have started the season well, retaining the Windsor Schools' festival trophy in a repeat of last year's final against Cranbrook. This year they won comfortably (13-0) and look forward to the coming season with much confidence, having only lost two out of 19 matches last winter. Their new captain is the England 16 Group lock, Justin Pearson, and they will be in the hands of a new coach, Colin Tattersall.

At Douai on Sunday, victory in section A of their excellent festival by Dowsdale, Wellfleet (Berkshire) was notable for the stirring oration from the winners' captain. It certainly did the trick and Dowsdale were good value for their 7-3 win.

In section B, the varied talents of the England 16 group lay flat. Jason Hood, were in evidence. Epsom defeated Trent (13-3) with Hoad contributing all their points from three penalties and a massive dropped goal from 40 yards out. Jason Radford kicked a penalty for Trent.

Wellington started as favourites in section A. Unlike their opponents, they had the advantage of a recent and successful tour of Canada, where they won seven out of their eight matches, losing only to the strong St Michael's University side (10-15).

Harrow enjoyed their short visit to Northumberland, beating Tyndale Colts (16-4) and Gosforth Colts (26-4).

Bath and Moseley hit by injury and an indifferent start

By David Hands, Rugby Correspondent

In other seasons we might have been discussing the latest rounds of Anglo-Welsh club encounters today. Instead it is possible to cast an international glance north, to Cuper, where the Anglo-Scots play the French, and reflect upon whether Bath and Moseley can recover from a poor start to the Courage Clubs championship.

Such is the effect a competitive structure has upon a game so firmly rooted in tradition. The effect upon club loyalties has yet to be measured; particularly is that true of the larger, cosmopolitan areas where better-known players moving clubs can — if they so wish — put themselves up for the highest bidder.

I doubt if that holds true for the big provincial clubs, most of whom remain among English rugby's elite: they include Bath, who play the only first-division match of the day against Moseley.

Unfortunately, injury has struck both clubs hard: Barnes, Halliday, Morrison and Robinson are among Bath's casualties and the Anglo-Scots call upon Cronin.

The dearth of locks means

an early recall for Redman, the England lock who has been recovering from a knee operation. In ideal circumstances he would probably have wished to make his way slowly back to match fitness. Instead, the partners Egerton in the second row with Simpson coming in at No. 8, a side smarting from defeat against Pontypool and Leicester.

Moseley's start to the season has been little short of disastrous: defeats against Nottingham and Swansea and the loss of Metcalfe, their captain, until the new year after an operation for a perforated bowel. Armitage and Record are also injured, so Goodwin moves from wing to full back, Desborough and Parsons join the three-quarters and Tuckwood plays lock.

Elsewhere there is a decently full league programme, though London Scottish will regret the absence of so many regulars at Cuper. Among them is Jeremy Macklin, their former captain, who will shortly depart the club: the Scotland B cap will play his last game against Northampton on October 3 before moving to São Paulo at the behest of his employers, ICI.

Macklin is due to spend between two and three years in Brazil which, though excellent for his career, means his loss to rugby at a time when his skills are at a peak. He played in the University match three times for Cambridge between 1979-82 as well as appearing for England Schools and in the under-23 squad, before Scotland lighted upon him.

He has been a regular in their B team over the last two seasons and, at the age of 26, might still have hoped for a senior cap.

Swansea v Bristol Kevin Morgan makes his first appearance in Bristol's centre alongside Knibbs, who plays his 200th game. Lander is at scrum half against a Swansea side including Hopkins and Young.

Leicester v L Welsh Rory Underwood's wode takes Ospreys and Harlequins out of Leicester's side. Butmore playing stand-off and Knockles full back, Humphreys returns to play full back for Harlequins.

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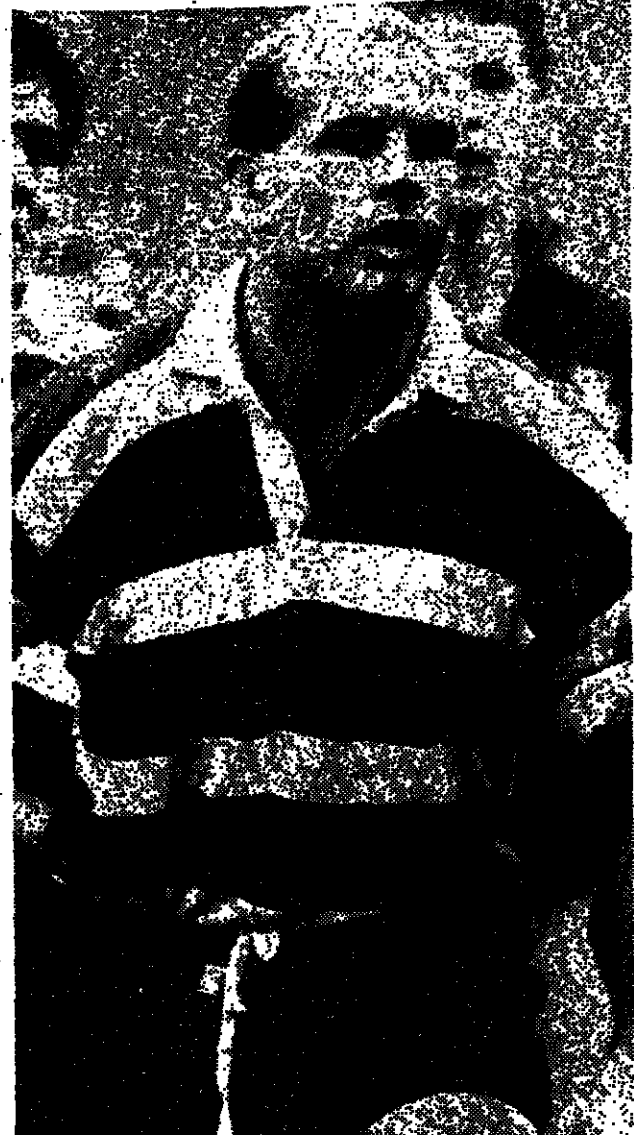
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Redman: unexpectedly early recall after knee operation

World Cup rehearsal

By Chris Thau

Encouraged by the success of the 1987 World Cup, French teams have put forward a concept for a similar competition to be held in France in August next year. The Student World Cup has received the official blessing of the French Federation and support from the International Federation for Student Sport.

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Minister mounts attack on drugs

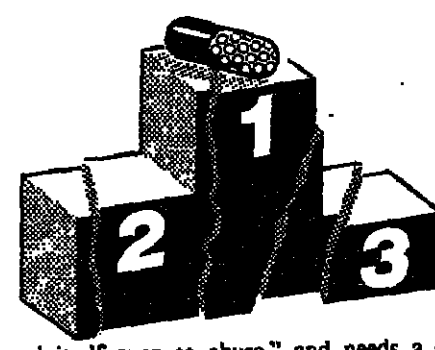
By Ian Stafford

Random independent testing for drugs in sportsmen and women will be recommended to the Government by Colin Moynihan, the Minister for Sport, after he announced yesterday a package of measures designed to attack drug abuse in sport.

The proposals stem from a joint investigation with Sebastian Coe, the vice-chairman of the Sports Council, after taking evidence from 213 governing bodies into the misuse of drugs following allegations of abuse in various sports, including athletics, boxing and snooker.

"There is no doubt that unless we tackle this problem, we will not only be supporting a system which allows sportsmen to cheat, but if we do not face up to this problem, we are not going to have international competition between first-class sportsmen, but between chemical laboratories," Moynihan said.

The only drugs specifically mentioned are anabolic steroids, which might now be outlawed under the 1971 Misuse of Drugs Act. This review was conducted despite low figures of detection of drug abuse, which, according to the Sports Minister, proves that the present system of testing is "rotten



and itself open to abuse," and needs a major upheaval.

Any testing procedure needs to be separate from the involvement of governing bodies," he added. "This removes the possibility of the governing bodies being both gamekeeper and poacher." The recommendations are:

● Independent testing: Sampling for tests must be carried out by approved officers, independent of governing bodies and trained in IOC procedures to ensure that sample collection is beyond suspicion. There should be independence in all the arrangements for testing.

● More effective, rigorous and entirely random testing: Selection of candidates to be tested must be made independently of governing bodies and at random. Number

of tests must vary and be unpredictable, including the possibility of 100 per cent testing in competition. Sportsmen and women should be called upon for testing during training. The system must inspire confidence and respect and must be both effective and efficient.

● All competitors must be required to make personal declarations of willingness to undertake tests: Competitors at defined standards should sign a statement signifying their willingness to be tested during training or in competition. Those who refuse should not receive support or grant aid from the Sports Council, the Sports Aid Foundation, the British Olympic Association and the National Coaching Foundation. Drug abusers must not be allowed to represent this country.

● Penalties for taking drugs must be effective and consistent: It must be made clear that the use of performance-enhancing drugs will not be tolerated. Penalties must therefore be firm, effective and consistent. Governing bodies have a responsibility to their membership, and to children ready to take-up sport, to penalise cheats.

● The Sports Council's Drug Abuse Advisory Group (DAAG) role should be enhanced: To supervise these measures against drug abuse the DAAG should be re-

formed with delegate powers to take decisions in this area.

● The effects of drugs, offenders and offences should be widely publicized: In support of these measures major publicity initiatives should be mounted by sports bodies, with co-operation from both sponsors and media, about the effects of drugs, about offences and offenders. The key strategies incorporated should be education and prevention. Penalties and offenders must be public knowledge. The National Sports Centres, and other major venues, must advertise the dangers of drug taking.

● Consideration should be given to extending relevant legislation: The Government announced on September 11 that the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs had been asked to consider whether anabolic steroids should be brought within the scope of the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971. This legislation effects tight controls over the import, export, possession and supply of particular drugs. The Government are considering the independent advice of the Advisory Council on whether or not anabolic steroids should be controlled under the 1971 Act.

The report also outlines the next steps required to make these measures practice, the proposals to be embodied in a new drug

testing regime. Moynihan and Coe suggest that ideas on policy, finance and execution should come from the representatives of sport and their sponsors.

They are subsequently seeking action in international Governmental and sporting forums for the adoption of the proposals in the report, particularly the notion of independence. "I believe this is the most far-reaching report on drugs in the world," Moynihan said. "We have led the world in the fight against drugs and I hope our tough line taken will make sports concentrate on their responsibility to outlaw drug abuse."

Coe will present the report to the Sports Council at their autumn meeting on Monday in North Wales, who will then work together to put forward proposals for the implementation of these measures within six weeks, in time for the next meeting on November 2. "We have got here a universal problem," Coe added. "We have now got to look for the future. We must attack drug abuse with military precision. The battle-lines have been drawn."

● The struggle to prevent drug abuse infiltrating sport in Scotland is being won. The situation is that all the governing bodies of competitive sports have now introduced — or are about to introduce — tests.

END COLUMN

Fearing for the game's spirit

By David Hands

Rugby Correspondent

"I wonder about the Frankenstein I have spent the last 15 years helping to create," one of the leading officials in London club and international rugby said this week. "How long will it be before it swallows us all up?"

Rugby Union is not always perceived — perhaps wrongly — as a bastion of such introspection. But the words, echoed those of another London club official, who pondered last month whether there was a place for him in the new rugby world.

The key to both remarks lay in the age of the speakers, both of whom I imagine are nearer 60 than 50 and have given years of committee service to their respective clubs, and beyond, doing so because they wanted to give something back to a game which they had enjoyed, with no thought of reward.

They are part of that which journalists airily call the "ethos" of the game. It includes those older administrators who do not enjoy the breaking up of traditional relationships and who genuinely fear for the amateur spirit of a game now being heavily commercialized. Hence the reference to Frankenstein's monster, the new league championship that will reshape the game in England.

It is this same commercialization that has led to a flood of late telephone calls to Twickenham, from clubs and schools, after they have been circled with a letter that invites them to accept £100 — "No questions asked, giv' — for a pair of tickets for next February's England v Wales international. Best seats in the house this season will cost £16 a single, a ground ticket (standing) costs £3.50.

Mike Burton Management, the company run by the former England prop forward and working on behalf of corporate clients, propose to sponsor ticket holders at the rate of £100 per pair of tickets supplied to us for this match... Payments will be made in cash if required. This represents an ideal opportunity for RFU affiliates to bring corporate money into the game at grass-roots level and use it as they wish."

In other words, what you do with the money afterwards is no concern of ours. There is nothing to prevent this and people who obtain match tickets are free to dispose of them



Burton: head of company

as they choose. But the reaction of many of those who have received such letters suggests — understandably in my view — that they find something morally wrong with it.

"We have had calls from all over the country objecting most strongly to the terms of the letter," Dudley Wood, secretary of the Rugby Football Union, said. "Our efforts to change when on schools and clubs supplying commercial organizations with tickets have born fruit and I think this is desperation."

Clubs and schools have already been warned that their ticket allocations can be traced and will be stopped if it is discovered tickets are being used in this way. But the RFU will be unable to stop what might loosely be described as market forces.

The RFU offers less than one per cent of the 62,000 tickets available for an international to match sponsors and to its members. The same, I imagine, will be true of the other home unions. Nevertheless, when those unions opened the doors to sponsorship, they also opened the doors to the sidelines which go with it. People make money out of sport — not least, I suppose, those of us who write about it.

Rugby is a success story in which people seek involvement, and the more corporate involvement there is, the more the top end of the game will be subjected to pressure.

John Burgess, president of the RFU, has warned against "glory-seekers" becoming involved in club rugby as a consequence of the league championship. Some of them are already here, more of them will come.

Mirandinha dims days of Beardsley

By Ian Ross

The new idol of North-East football will come up against his predecessor at St James's Park tomorrow.

Peter Beardsley, returning to his native Newcastle for the first time since his British record transfer to Liverpool during the summer, is likely to find that memories are short on football terraces, such has been the impact made by Mirandinha, the Brazilian extrovert ushered into the English game to pacify a Tyneside public which still has a continuing need for a solitary hero.

Beardsley, who moved to Anfield only after a series of undignified squabbles

Charlton last night completed the £300,000 signing of Andy Jones, Port Vale's Welsh international forward. Charlton beat off competition from Everton and Manchester United for the signature of Jones. He signed too late, however, to play in Charlton's home first division match against Luton today.

centred on the payment of disputed loyalty bonuses, can expect a cool reception from supporters who still place loyalty above skill in a sportsman's list of required qualities.

Almost inevitably, Beardsley has proclaimed himself ready for what will be a stirring test of nerve in the new season's first live television game and is swift to acknowledge the part his former club played in the advancement of his career.

"I am looking forward to Sunday's match. I had four happy years at Newcastle, where the fans and the club were tremendous to me. Some

of the supporters were a little disappointed when I did leave but I took that as a compliment really," he said.

"I have a lot of happy memories of my time at Newcastle and it was a tremendous experience playing alongside the likes of Kevin Keegan and Chris Waddle. Obviously there are going to be comparisons made between myself and Mirandinha but neither of us should be judged on one game," he added.

Rumours circulating in the North-East that Willie McFaul, the United manager, was on the verge of making a bid for a second Brazilian player, Nelinho, were firmly quashed yesterday.

"I'm aware of the situation and what has been suggested but at this moment I do not intend to buy anyone else," McFaul said, aware that the St James's Park coffers are hardly overflowing.

Despite the arrival of Mirandinha, Newcastle have made an undistinguished start to the new campaign and will be hard pressed to contain a Liverpool side which moved up into third place in the first division in midweek with a victory over Charlton Athletic.

Kenny Dalglish, the Liverpool manager, yesterday declined to announce even a travelling squad but is expected to name an unchanged line-up.

"I don't think that there will be any extra pressure on Peter Beardsley — this is Newcastle v Liverpool not just one player against another," Dalglish said.



Heading for victory: Lisianthus and Pat Eddery, on the far side, get up to win from Likeable Lady, the mount of Steve Dawson, in The Mail On Sunday Handicap at Newbury yesterday. Eddery is one behind Steve Cauthery in race for the jockeys' championship. Racing, pages 42-43

First steps on road to Seoul

By a Special Correspondent

Zola Budd will attempt to pick up the pieces of her athletics career when she runs in a road race in Bangor, Northern Ireland, this afternoon. The South African-born athlete is a surprise entrant for the Kodak Classic 10km event.

Les Jones, the race director, one of the most influential men in British athletics, spoke to Miss Budd on Thursday and confirmed yesterday she would be a definite starter. "I am delighted she has chosen the Kodak event as one of her build-up races back into international competition," he said.

A recurrent hamstring injury has forced Miss Budd out of international competition since August 1986, when she placed fourth in the European 3,000 metres championship in Stuttgart. Since recovering from the injury she has competed in two low-key events in England under a fictitious name, but this afternoon's competitive outing — under her own name — will be her first serious task on the comeback trail.

According to Jones, Miss Budd is in fine running trim and her main aim is to be fully fit for the Olympic Games in Seoul next year.

Course record for Lane but Woosnam leads

From Mitchell Platts Golf Correspondent Versailles

Ian Woosnam's struggle for global recognition could end here this weekend following a second round of 64 in the Lancôme Trophy on the St Nom-la-Bretteche course yesterday.

Woosnam has a halfway aggregate of 129, which is 15 under par, and a one stroke lead over Barry Lane, whose 63 established a record for this parkland course. Tony Johnstone, of Zimbabwe, and Bernhard Langer, of West Germany, who shared the first-round lead, scored 69 and 70 respectively to be four and five strokes adrift.

Woosnam, however, was more concerned to know the score of Nick Faldo and Mark McNulty. They would appear to be the only players capable of overthrowing him at the top of the Epson Order of Merit. Faldo, who took 70 for 143, must be considered a long shot, especially as he does not intend to play in any of the remaining three tournaments which carry official money. McNulty's challenge cannot be discounted as he remained in touch after a 67.

If Woosnam were to win the first prize of £30,000 then that

would be that. It would increase his official winnings in Europe this season to £244,166. Not bad for a player who only six years ago was 104th in the Order of Merit with earnings of £1,884.

Not that he is alone in possessing that vital ingredient in his character. By chance Lane, like Woosnam, initially had his troubles trying to qualify for the tour. He went

Card of course

Hole	Yds	Par	Hole	Yds	Par
1	365	4	10	409	4
2	364	4	11	371	4
3	179	3	12	544	5
4	389	4	13	205	3
5	478	4	14	265	4
6	437	4	15	388	4
7	450	4	16	170	3
8	420	4	17	519	4
9	205	3	18	357	4
Out 3374 36			In 3239 36		
Total yardage: 6713			Par: 72		

back to the European "school" no fewer than seven times. Last season he retained his player's card for the first time and he is enjoying his best season.

Woosnam and Lane, judged on yesterday's rounds, should provide the crowd with a fair amount of entertainment when they partner each other today. Both have a penchant

for opening their shoulders on the tee and drilling the ball the proverbial country mile.

Woosnam, too, is putting well again following a lesson from Greg Norman. He did, however, have no need for the putter at the short 13th where he holed out from a bunker for one of his nine birdies. Lane gathered five birdies on each half.

Woosnam will hope to win in a canter. "I don't want to take too much out of myself with the Ryder Cup next week," he said. Even so there is much importance to be attached to individual glory for him. The doors to the major championships in the United States will all swing open if he secures Europe's No 1 spot.

SECOND ROUND LEADING SCORES (68 and Ireland unless stated): 128: Woosnam, 65, 64, 129: B Lane, 67, 63 course record; 132: A Johnston (Zim), 64, 68; 134: A Langer (West), 64, 70; 135: M McNulty (SA), 65, 67; 136: B Langer (West), 67, 69; 137: A Langer (West), 67, 70; 138: D Smith (Zim), 69, 70; 139: A Langer (West), 67, 71; 140: B Langer (West), 67, 71; 141: A Langer (West), 67, 71; 142: A Langer (West), 67, 71; 143: A Langer (West), 67, 71; 144: A Langer (West), 67, 71; 145: A Langer (West), 67, 71; 146: A Langer (West), 67, 71; 147: A Langer (West), 67, 71; 148: A Langer (West), 67, 71; 149: A Langer (West), 67, 71; 150: A Langer (West), 67, 71.

Hobbs for Wightman Cup team

Jo Durie, Sara Gomer and Anne Hobbs have been selected for Britain's Wightman Cup team to play the United States at Williamsburg from October 29 to 31.

All three players represented Britain in the Federation Cup in Canada and are clearly the top three home players on present form.

Two more women have still to be named for the team but Sue Mappin, the British team manager, says: "I shall not select the other two players for the team until after the national closed championships at Telford, where I hope to see some fighting performances from some of our younger players."

The Americans announced their team earlier this week and look certain to gain yet another victory.

Their team of Pam Shriver, ranked No 5 in the world, Zina Garrison (No. 7), Lori McNeil (No. 11), Gigi Fernandez (No. 32) and Robin White (No. 41) are all ranked above London-based Miss Hobbs, who is Britain's top player at No. 49. Miss Durie, from Bristol, has slumped to No. 60 on the computer and Miss Gomer, from Torquay, is No. 72.

SPORT IN BRIEF

Bruno aim for Bugner

Barry Hearn, the snooker and boxing, who hopes to stage a heavyweight bout between Frank Bruno and Joe Bugner, is serious as far as Bugner is concerned. Last night, on Thames Television, Bugner, aged 37, said he was willing to box Bruno for \$1 million.

Speaking from his home in Sydney, the former British heavyweight champion said he had been after a bout with Bruno for five and a half years.

Dispute talks

The Great Britain centre, Garry Schofield, will have talks with the Rugby League next week in a bid to secure his release from Hull. Schofield, who had been locked in a contract dispute with the club since returning from Australia last week, will visit the League headquarters on Wednesday.

Slugged out

Hank Aaron, the former American baseball player, has pulled out of his slugging contest with Ian Botham, the England cricketer, at the Oval tomorrow. Botham had been attempting to out-hit Aaron against a pitching machine. Ian Pont, the Essex player, who had a trial with an American baseball team earlier this year, will oppose the Worcestershire all-rounder.

Tough group

England have been drawn in the same group as the defending champions, Greece, in the semi-final round of the European basketball championship. The first England game in group A will be in Athens on October 29 and the top two nations will qualify for the eight-team final round in 1989. The England women's team are in the same round-robin group as Finland, Czechoslovakia, Spain, France and West Germany. Finland are the hosts. The top two countries will go through to the finals, scheduled for Bulgaria in June 1989.

Show off

Lisbon (Reuters) — An international show jumping event scheduled here next week has been cancelled because of an outbreak of African horse disease in neighbouring Spain, the organizers said yesterday.

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